Canadian Addiction Survey 2004 - Alberta Report

Report on provincial use of alcohol and other drugs

January 2006

Detailed Report

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Introduction

As discussed in the detailed report of the Canadian Addiction Survey (Adlaf, Begin & Sawka, 2005, p. 7), "timely and relevant data are prerequisites for effective health and social policy and programming and for the monitoring of established health and social objectives." Before the 2004 Canadian Addiction Survey (CAS), only two national surveys had focused on alcohol and other drug use in Canada: the National Alcohol and Other Drugs Survey (NADS) in 1989 (Eliany, Giesbrecht, and Nelson, 1990) and the Canada's Alcohol and Other Drugs Survey (CADS) in 1994 (MacNeil & Webster, 1997). It's further noted that, "Current information about prevalence rates, trends, and changes from the CAS will fill a critical gap in population surveillance of alcohol and other drug use and will assist decision-makers in federal and provincial addictions agencies to allocate financial and human resources where they are most needed" (Adlaf et al., 2005, p.7).

The Canadian Addiction Survey is a collaborative undertaking sponsored by Health Canada, the Canadian Executive Council on Addictions (CECA) [consisting of the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA), the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission (AADAC), the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba (AFM), the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), Prince Edward Island Provincial Health Services Authority, and the Kaiser Foundation], the Centre for Addictions Research of BC (CARBC), and the provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and British Columbia.

To date, three reports have been published based on the CAS: (1) Summary findings of this report on Alberta have been published in the *Canadian Addiction Survey 2004, Alberta report: Executive Summary* (Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission, 2005, which can be found on AADAC's corporate website at www.aadac.com). In addition, two national reports have been published: (1) *Canadian Addiction Survey (CAS): A national survey of Canadians' use of alcohol and other drugs: Prevalence of use and related harms: Detailed report* (Adlaf et al., 2005); and (2) *Canadian Addiction Survey (CAS): A national survey of Canadians' use of alcohol and other drugs: Prevalence of use and related harms: Highlights* (CCSA, 2004a).

This report, published by AADAC as a member of the CAS partnership, takes a narrow focus. Its purpose is to present detailed findings from the 2004 CAS for the subsample of Alberta respondents only. Topics covered include the prevalence of alcohol and illicit drug use, trends in the prevalence of substance use, patterns of substance use, risk and harm associated with substance use, and community attitudes and beliefs regarding substance use issues. The report will help 1) AADAC staff and other health professionals in Alberta understand the current state of substance use in Alberta; and 2) inform decision-making related to prevention and treatment programming.

Methods

Specific details on the research design and methods can be found in the CAS main national report (Adlaf et al., 2005) and the *Canadian Addiction Survey 2004: Microdata eGuide* (CCSA, 2004b) both of which are available online at the Canadian Centre for Substance Abuse website www.ccsa.ca. Presented here is a summary of the general methodology and details specific to the analyses contained in this report.

Survey design and methodology

The Canadian Addiction Survey consisted of over 400 questionnaire items pertaining to the use of alcohol and illicit drugs, life harm associated with such use and the level of risk demonstrated by such use, and items tapping public opinion, attitudes and knowledge about alcohol and illicit drugs. Questionnaire items were typically drawn from existing national surveys and internationally recognized scales for comparability over time.

A three-panel design was implemented in order to manage the range of items of interest in the CAS without increasing response burden. Demographic items and questions on prevalence of use and harm were asked of the full sample. Other items on public opinion, knowledge and attitude, and some substance use experience items were distributed over three panels and asked of three independent sub-samples. Accordingly, the number of cases available for analysis with the "panelized" items was reduced.

Interviews for the 2004 Canadian Addiction Survey were conducted by the research firm Jolicoeur et associés between December 2003 and April 2004. Sampling was based on a two-stage (telephone household, respondent) design, stratified by region.

Sample

A total of 13,909 Canadians completed the Canadian Addiction Survey. The sample was drawn from the 10 provinces only; the territories were excluded because of the unique features of northern communities. This report focuses on the sub-sample of 2,401 Albertans surveyed. For Alberta the response rate was 44.8%. Reflecting the panel design of the survey, three subsets of the sample (approximately 800 Albertans in each panel) were asked about their attitudes and opinions regarding alcohol and drug use including opinions on various policy issues, cannabis use for medicinal purposes, and substance use and driving. Weighting adjustments were used to ensure that the demographic profile for sex and age of the sample is similar to that of the population described in the 2001 Census data (Alberta population 15 years and older = 2,348,839) (CCSA, 2004b). The un-weighted and weighted demographic characteristics of the Alberta sample are presented in Table 1.

Analysis

Data weights for the analysis were provided as a variable in the data set provided by Jolicoeur et associés. For the national sample, the weighting was based on 252 population classes, stratified by 21 regions, by six age groups and by sex (CCSA, 2004b). To account for the complex sampling design, analysis was conducted using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) Complex Samples Module (Version 13) with the following specifications:

- Strata Variable: STRATA
- Cluster Variable: IDNUM
- Weight Variable: XWGT

Frequency and crosstab operations were used to provide the percentages reported and the logistic regression component of the SPSS Complex Samples Module was used to examine relationships between demographic variables and various indicators. The significance of a relationship was based on the most conservative, "Bonferroni," adjustment for multiple comparisons at an alpha level of 0.05. Adjusted odds ratios were then examined to identify differences between demographic groups.

The precision and reliability of an estimate was measured using the confidence interval (CI) and the coefficient of variation (CV). The 95% confidence interval indicates that if the same survey were conducted 100 times, estimates would be within the confidence interval 95 times. The confidence intervals for estimates obtained from the sample are displayed in the report tables. These confidence intervals should be used when generalizing to the Alberta population.

Following Statistics Canada guidelines (as reported in Adlaf et al., 2005), the reliability of an estimate was gauged by examining the coefficient of variation (CV) — the ratio of the standard error to its estimate. Following Statistics Canada guidelines for ensuring the presentation of statistically reliable data, estimates with a CV from 0 to 16.5 are stable and reported without qualification. Estimates with a CV between 16.6 and 33.3 have moderate sampling variability and are reported with qualification: the estimate may be unstable and may not generalize to the population. Estimates with a CV greater than 33.3 are considered unstable and are suppressed in this report.

Estimates that were deemed unstable are not presented in this report and are represented by an "S" in place of the estimate to indicate that it was suppressed. Estimates that were deemed moderately unstable are represented with a superscript "Q" to indicate that the estimate is being released with the qualification that the estimate may be unstable and, therefore, should not be generalized to the population.

The questionnaire items and descriptions of most of the derived variables can be found in the national detailed report and Microdata Guide (Adlaf et al., 2005; CCSA 2004b).

Important variables

Lifetime Drinkers/Users – Respondents who reported using the substance at least once during their lifetime

Past-Year or Current Drinkers/Users – Respondents who reported using the substance at least once during the 12 months prior to the survey

Sex – Male and Female

Age – The following age categories were used in tables: ages 15 to 17, 18 to 29, 30 to 49, and 50+. Age was used as a continuous variable for regression analyses.

Marital Status – Married/Widowed, Common-Law, Separated/Divorced, and Single (never married)

Education – Less than High School, Completed High School, Some Post-Secondary, and Completed Post-Secondary

Income – Low income (less than $20,000 per year with one to two persons in the household or less than $30,000 with three or more persons), Middle income ($20,000 to $59,000 per year with one to two persons in the household or $30,000 to $79,000 with three or more persons), High income ($60,000 or more with one to two persons in the household or $80,000 or more with three or more persons), DK/Refused (respondent did not know his/her household income or refused to answer the question)

Location of Household – Rural and Urban (based on forward sortation area—first three digits of the postal code)

Limitations

The limitations of the Canadian Addiction Survey are those common to large telephone-based surveys involving self-report measures (Adlaf et al., 2005). Telephone surveys assume that everyone in the population has a conventional residence with telephone coverage. However, a small proportion of Canadian households do not have telephones and other groups would not be reached this way because they are in hospitals, prisons, or military establishments or are homeless. Nevertheless, since one of the objectives of the CAS is to generate estimates of the prevalence of substance use and abuse for Canada as a whole, the relatively small size of these excluded populations should have minimal effect on the reliability of estimates for the broader population.

The CAS deals with sensitive subject matter: people are asked to report behaviour that may not be socially acceptable and may even be illegal. As a result, it is expected that some underreporting of such behaviour may occur. However, there is no more efficient way to obtain such information from a sample large enough to be representative of the population of Canada and its 10 provinces (territories not included). Additionally, as noted by Adlaf et al. (2005), while this bias may influence estimates for a single point in time, it likely remains quite stable over time, thus having less of an impact on estimating change over time.

An additional limitation to this particular analysis is that it examines only a subset of the CAS respondents: those residing in Alberta. As a result, the sample size is smaller and therefore the variance is greater, resulting in less stable estimates of the Alberta population than of the Canadian population. This is particularly evident when trying to analyze the Alberta data by demographic variables and for some public opinion items; which often results in small group sizes, making the estimate unreliable.

Finally, some comparisons are made to the results of the 1989 National Alcohol and Other Drugs Survey (NADS; Eliany et al., 1990) and the 1994 Canada's Alcohol and Other Drugs Survey (CADS; MacNeil & Webster, 1997). Analyses conducted for the main report identified province-specific confidence intervals for past-year use of alcohol (Adlaf et al., 2005). This enabled a comparison of confidence intervals between surveys as an indication of a significant difference. The variance involved in each survey is taken into consideration when comparing the confidence interval estimates. However, province-specific confidence intervals were not available for the use of illicit drugs. As a result, only single-point estimates are available and there is no evidence as to whether the estimates differ significantly from each other, given survey variability.

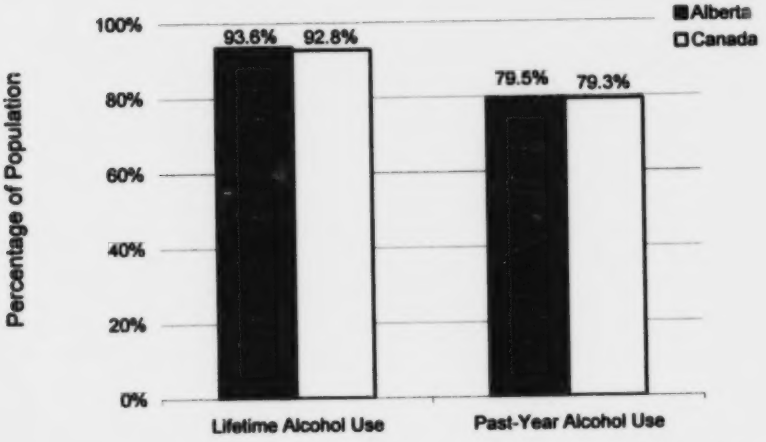
TABLE 1: Demographic Profile of CAS Alberta Subsample

	Number of Interviews	Unweighted % (N=2,401)	Weighted % (N=1,368)	Weighted 95% CI
	N	%	%	
Sex				
Female	1,406	58.6	50.4	[47.6-51.7]
Male	995	41.4	49.6	[47.6-51.7]
Missing	0	0.0	0	
Age Group				
15-17	109	4.5	5	[4.2-5.9]
18-29	535	22.3	22.9	[21.3-24.6]
30-49	944	39.3	39.4	[37.4-41.3]
50+	813	33.9	32.8	[30.8-34.8]
Missing	0	0.0	0	
Marital Status				
Married or Widowed	1,317	54.9	53.8	[51.8-55.9]
Common-Law	180	7.5	7.5	[6.5-8.6]
Separated or Divorced	227	9.5	9.1	[8.0-10.3]
Single	660	27.5	29.6	[27.8-31.5]
Missing	0	17	8	
Education				
Less than High School	333	13.9	14.3	[12.9-15.8]
Completed High School	668	27.8	27.9	[26.1-29.7]
Some Post-secondary	812	33.8	33.7	[31.9-35.7]
Completed Post-secondary	571	23.8	24.1	[22.4-25.9]
Missing	0	17	10	
Income				
Low	218	9.1	8.6	[7.6-9.8]
Middle	835	34.8	34.6	[32.7-36.6]
High	743	30.9	31.9	[30.0-33.8]
DK/Refused	605	25.2	24.8	[23.1-26.6]
Missing	0	0	0	
Location of Household				
Rural	289	12	10.2	[9.1-11.4]
Urban	2,112	88	89.8	[88.6-90.9]
Missing	0	0	0	

Alcohol Use and Problems

What is the prevalence of alcohol use in Alberta?

FIGURE 1: Albertans and Canadians (Aged 15 Years and Up) Reporting the Use of Alcohol During the Lifetime and the Past Year



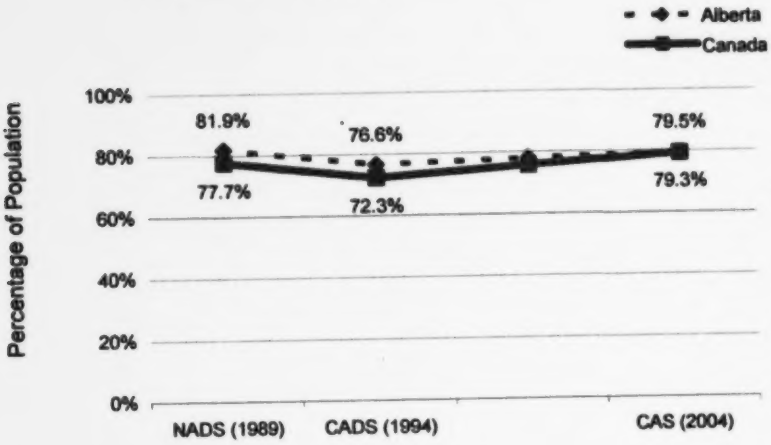
Almost 94% (93.6%) of Albertans sampled reported the use of alcohol at least once during their lifetime. This corresponds to approximately 2.2 million Albertans (Figure 1 and Table 2). In contrast, only 6.4% of Albertans 15 years of age and older were lifetime abstainers, having never had a drink of alcohol (beyond small sips) during their lifetime. The lifetime prevalence of alcohol use in Alberta is slightly, but not significantly, higher than the national lifetime prevalence of 92.8%.

About four out of five Albertans (79.5%) reported being current drinkers, having used alcohol during the 12 months prior to the survey (approximately 1.9 million Albertans; Figure 1 and Table 2). The Alberta rate of past-year alcohol use is almost identical to the national rate of 79.3%. The use of alcohol during the past year was less likely among females, those with less than a high school education and those in the low-income range (Table 3). Additionally, the likelihood of past-year alcohol use decreased with age.

Fourteen per cent (14.1%) of Albertans reported the use of alcohol during their lifetime but not during the previous year (about 330,000 Albertans; see Table 3). The likelihood of being one of these "former" drinkers increased with age, was higher for those with less than a high school education, lower for those with a completed post-secondary education, and higher for those in the low-income range.

What have been the trends in alcohol use in Alberta?

FIGURE 2: Trends in the Prevalence of Past-Year Alcohol Use Among Albertans (Aged 15 Years and Up) Over Time



Other Sources:

Eliany, M., Giesbrecht, N., & Nelson, M. (1990). *National Alcohol and Other Drugs Survey: Highlights Report.* Ottawa, ON: Health and Welfare Canada.

MacNeil, P., & Webster, I. (1997). *Canada's Alcohol and Other Drugs Survey 1994: A Discussion of the Findings.* Ottawa, ON: Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada.

The prevalence of past-year alcohol use among Albertans aged 15 years and up has fluctuated somewhat according to national surveys conducted in 1989, 1994 and now in 2004 (Eliany, Giesbrecht, and Nelson, 1990, MacNeil and Webster, 1997, Adlaf et al., 2005; Figure 2 and Table 4). The reported prevalence of past-year alcohol use was highest in 1989 at 81.9% and decreased significantly in the 1994 study to 76.6%. The current study reveals a prevalence in between those from previous years, at 79.5%.

In the 1989 and 1994 studies, Alberta had a significantly higher prevalence of past-year alcohol use than the national average; however, in 2004, the rate of use in Alberta is not significantly different from the national average.

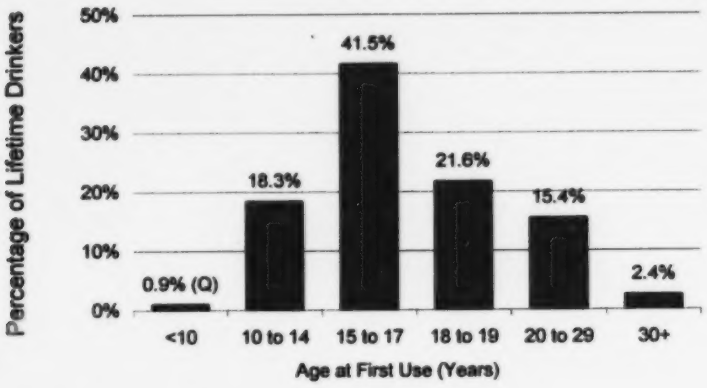
At what age do drinkers in Alberta start using alcohol?

The average age at which an Albertan first began using alcohol was 17.2 years (Figure 3 and Table 5). The majority of lifetime drinkers in Alberta (63.1%) started using alcohol between 15 and 19 years of age.

Less than 1% (0.9%[Q]) of drinkers started using alcohol before 10 years of age, 18.3% started between 10 and 14 years, 41.5% between 15 and 17 years, 21.6% between 18 and 19 years of age, and 15.4% between 20 and 29 years of age; only 2.4% had their first drink at 30 years of age or older.

[Q] Qualified release due to high sampling variability

FIGURE 3: Age of First Alcohol Use Among Albertans (Aged 15 Years and Up) Who Reported Alcohol Use During the Lifetime



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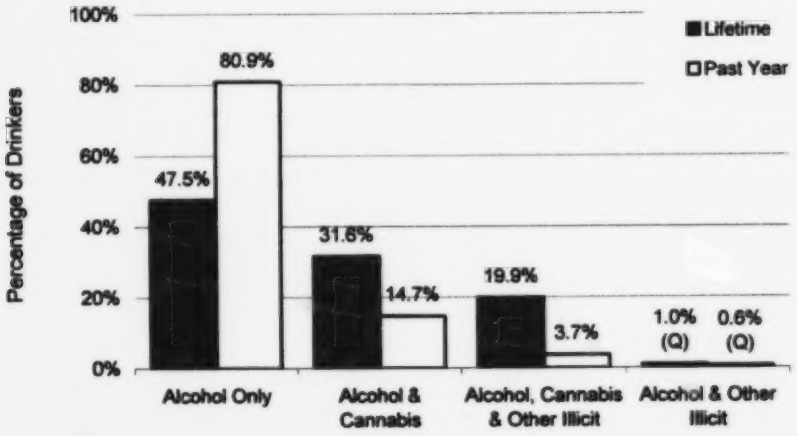
How many drinkers in Alberta use illicit drugs in addition to alcohol?

FIGURE 4: The Use of Illicit Drugs Among Lifetime Drinkers (Aged 15 Years and Up) in Alberta



[Q] Qualified release due to high sampling variability.

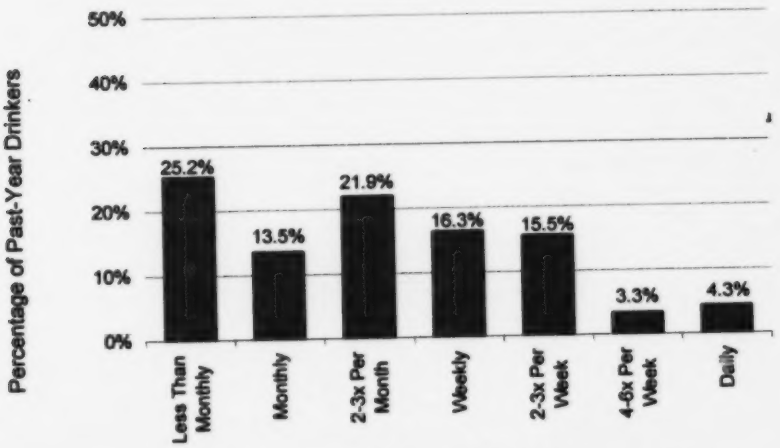
Almost half (47.5%) of Albertans who reported the use of alcohol during the lifetime reported that they had not used any illicit drug (including cannabis) during their lifetime (Figure 4 and Table 6). About one in three (31.6%) respondents who had drunk at least once during the lifetime reported that they had also used cannabis at some point during their lifetimes and about one in

five drinkers (19.9%) had used cannabis and at least one other illicit drug during the lifetime. The other 1.0%[Q] used alcohol and an illicit drug other than cannabis during the lifetime, but not cannabis itself.

The majority of Albertans who used alcohol during the past year (80.9%) reported using alcohol only during the last year, while about 15% (14.7%) reported also using cannabis at least once during the past year and 4% (3.7%) used cannabis and at least one other illicit drug in addition to their alcohol use. The other 0.6%[Q] used alcohol and an illicit drug other than cannabis during the past year, but not cannabis itself.

How often do drinkers in Alberta consume alcohol?

FIGURE 5: Alcohol Consumption Among Past-Year Drinkers in Alberta (Aged 15 Years and Up)



One-quarter (25.2%) of past-year drinkers in Alberta reported that they consumed alcohol on a less-than-monthly basis during the past year (Figure 5 and Table 7). Monthly alcohol consumption was reported by 13.5% of drinkers; 21.9% consumed alcohol two to three times per month, 16.3% weekly, 15.5% two to three times per week, 3.3% four to six times per week, and 4.3% of drinkers consumed alcohol daily. In total, 39.4% of past-year drinkers drank at least once a week and 23.1% drank more than once a week.

How much alcohol do drinkers in Alberta consume when they drink?

Past-year drinkers in Alberta reported *usually* consuming an average of 3.2 drinks per occasion during the previous year (Table 8). Most (62.3%) usually consumed one to two drinks, 18.3% usually consumed three to four drinks, and 19.4% usually consumed five or more drinks per occasion.

[Q] Qualified release due to high sampling variability

On average, the *largest* number of alcoholic drinks consumed on a single occasion during the last year by past-year drinkers was 6.3 for Albertans (Table 9). About one-quarter of past-year drinkers in Alberta (26.7%) reported one or two as the largest number of drinks consumed on a single occasion in the past year, another quarter (25.8%) reported three to four as the largest number of drinks consumed, 19.4% reported five to seven drinks as the largest number of drinks consumed, 12.8% reported eight to 11 drinks, and 15.3% reported 12 or more drinks as the largest number consumed on a single occasion during the past year.

Overall drinking patterns of Albertans

Combining the amount of alcohol usually consumed and the frequency at which it is consumed, four drinking patterns can be described:

a) Light-infrequent: Current drinkers who drink less often than once a week (usually fewer than five drinks when alcohol is used).

b) Light-frequent: Current drinkers who drink once a week or more (usually fewer than five drinks when alcohol is used).

c) Heavy-infrequent: Current drinkers who drink less often than once a week (usually five drinks or more when alcohol is used).

d) Heavy-frequent: Current drinkers who drink once a week or more (usually five drinks or more when alcohol is used).

As displayed in Table 10, half the drinkers in Alberta (51.1%) fell into the light-infrequent category while 29.5% fell into the light-frequent category. Almost one in ten Albertan drinkers (9.5%) reported heavy-infrequent alcohol consumption and a further 9.9% reported heavy-frequent alcohol consumption over the past year.

How many Albertans drink at "high-risk" levels?

Heavy drinking

Men who consume five or more alcoholic drinks on a single occasion and women who consume four or more drinks on a single occasion are at an increased risk for alcohol-related problems (Wechsler et al., 1995, as cited in Demers & Poulin, 2005; Hetzler & Burnham, 1991, as cited in Demers & Poulin, 2005). In the CAS 2004 Alberta sample, 6.0% of past-year drinkers report this behaviour on a weekly basis and 26.5% on a monthly basis (Table 11).

About one-third of males (32.6%) drink five or more drinks per occasion on a monthly basis and 8.9% do so on a weekly basis. For females, the rates are significantly lower with about one in five (20.1%) drinking four or more drinks per occasion on a monthly basis and 2.9%^{Q} doing so on a weekly basis. The likelihood of reporting heavy drinking, both on a monthly and a weekly basis, decreased as the age of the respondent increased. Heavy monthly drinking was

significantly lower among those who were married or widowed at the time of the survey while heavy weekly drinking was significantly higher among those living common-law. Respondents with a completed post-secondary education were less likely to drink heavily on a monthly basis than those with lower levels of education, but the difference is not statistically significant for drinking heavily on a weekly basis.

Exceeding low-risk drinking guidelines

Other sources use Canadian guidelines for risky drinking as described in Demers and Poulin (as cited in Adlaf et al., 2005, p21):

> Guidelines referring to "low-risk drinking" were disseminated in 1994 following an international conference on health benefits and risks (Ashley et al., 1994). In 1997, revised guidelines were released by the former Addiction Research Foundation (now CAMH) and the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse. These guidelines have been endorsed by various provincial governments and nongovernmental agencies (Bondy et al., 1999). The low-risk drinking guidelines recommend that men and women limit weekly alcohol intake to no more than 14 and 9 standard drinks, respectively. Also, alcohol intake on any one day should generally be limited to two standard drinks. The guidelines are intended to represent low risk of the most important forms of harm.

In the CAS 2004 Alberta sample, 22.5% of past-year drinkers exceeded these low-risk drinking guidelines (Table 11). Again, males were significantly more likely to report this form of risky drinking than females (29.0% and 15.7% respectively) while those who were married/widowed and those who were older were less likely to report exceeding the low-risk drinking guidelines.

The Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT)

The Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT) is a 10-item questionnaire used to identify hazardous or harmful drinking (Babor, Higgins-Biddle, Saunders & Monteiro, 2001). Although primarily used in clinical settings, it can be used in research settings to estimate the prevalence of high-risk drinking in populations (Adlaf et al., 2005). The AUDIT consists of the following items:

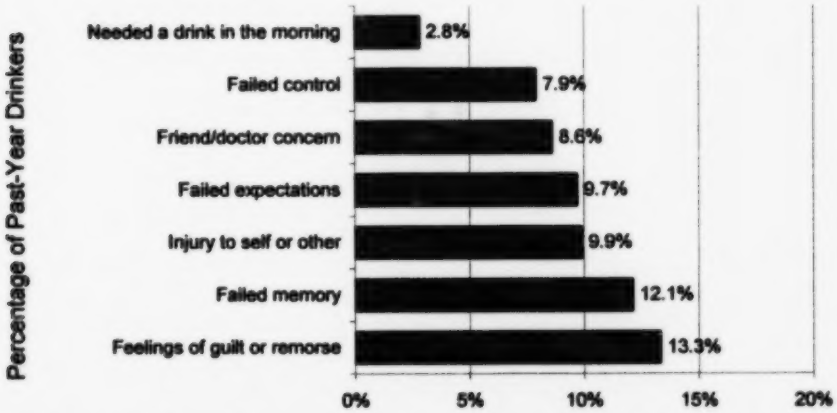
- How often did you drink alcohol beverages during the past 12 months?
- How often during the past 12 months have you found that you were not able to stop drinking once you had started?
- How often during the past 12 months have you failed to do what was normally expected of you because of drinking?
- How often during the past 12 months have you needed a first alcoholic drink in the morning to get yourself going after a heavy drinking session?

- How often during the past 12 months have you had a feeling of guilt or remorse after drinking?
- Have you or someone else ever been injured as a result of your drinking?
- Has a relative, a friend, a doctor or other health worker ever been concerned about your drinking or suggested you cut down?

In the Canadian Addiction Survey an AUDIT score of eight or more was used to indicate harmful alcohol use or possible alcohol dependence. According to Adlaf et al., "scores of 8+ should not be viewed as 'alcoholism,' but, rather, as an indicator of high-risk drinking" (Adlaf et al., 2005, p. 34). Among Albertan respondents, about one in five past-year drinkers (19.1%) scored in the "high-risk" range of the AUDIT scale indicating harmful drinking or potential alcohol dependence (Table 11). This corresponds to an estimate of between 13.7% and 16.6% of all Albertans engaging in high-risk drinking (approximately 280,000 people over the age of 15 years).

Males were more likely than females to score in the high-risk range for hazardous drinking on the AUDIT scale (26.4% of males compared with 11.4% of females; Table 11). Additionally, a high-risk score was more likely among those who were younger, not married or widowed, and those with less than a completed post-secondary education.

FIGURE 6: Past-Year Drinkers in Alberta (Aged 15 Years and Up) Reporting Indications of Harmful Use (AUDIT)



As displayed in Figure 6 and Table 12, 13.3% of drinkers in Alberta reported feeling guilt or remorse after drinking during the last year and 12.1% were unable to remember what happened on a night of drinking. About one in ten drinkers in Alberta reported they had caused injury to themselves or to someone else as result of their drinking at some point during their lifetime (9.9%) or had failed during the last year to do something that was expected of them as a result of their drinking (9.7%). Almost 9% of drinkers (8.6%) have had a friend or health professional express concern about their drinking, or suggest cutting down, at some point during their lifetime. Eight per cent (7.9%)

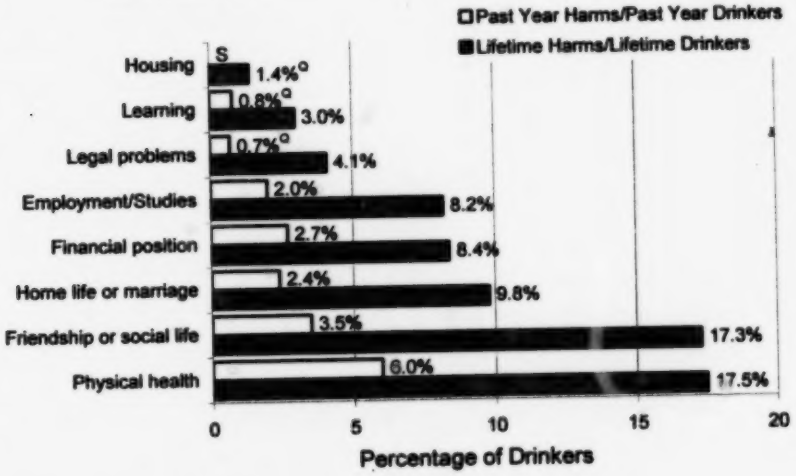
of past-year drinkers indicated that they had been unable to stop drinking once started at least once during the past year and 2.8% had needed a drink in the morning to get going after a heavy drinking session.

What alcohol-related harm do Albertans experience?

Harm from one's own drinking

Respondents who reported the lifetime use of alcohol were asked about any harmful effects that drinking may have had on their major life areas. Twenty-nine per cent (28.6%) of lifetime drinkers in Alberta reported harm to at least one life area at some point during their lifetime and 9.5% of past-year drinkers reported harm to at least one life area during the past year (Table 13).

FIGURE 7: Drinkers in Alberta (Aged 15 Years and Up) Reporting Harm Associated with Their Alcohol Use



Q: Qualified release because of high sampling variability.
S: Estimate suppressed because of unacceptable high sampling variability.

Lifetime Harm Among Lifetime Drinkers:

As displayed in Figure 7, the most common alcohol-related harm experienced over the course of the lifetime was to the area of physical health, with 17.5% reporting such harm (Table 13). This is followed closely by harm to friendships or social life (17.3%). About one in 10 lifetime drinkers (9.8%) reported alcohol-related harm to their home life or marriage at some point during their lifetime, 8.4% experience alcohol-related harm to their financial situation, 8.2% experienced alcohol-related harm in the area of work or school, 4.1% reported legal problems related to their drinking, 3.0% reported experiencing harm to their learning and just over 1% (1.4%^{Q}) of lifetime drinkers experienced

^{Q} Qualified release due to high sampling variability

housing difficulties because of their drinking at some point during their lifetime.

Among those respondents who reported the lifetime use of alcohol, the likelihood of experiencing alcohol-related harm to one or more areas during the lifetime was higher for males than females, decreased with age, was lower among those who were married or widowed and those in the middle income category and those who did not know their household income (Table 14). The more frequently respondents had used alcohol over the past year, the more likely they were to report experiencing harm related to alcohol sometime during their lifetime.

Past-Year Harm Among Past-Year Drinkers

During the past year, among past-year drinkers, physical health was the life area most commonly affected by alcohol, with 6.0% reporting harm to their physical health. Friendships or social life had been negatively affected by alcohol use during the past year for 3.5% of past-year drinkers, negative financial effects of alcohol use were experienced by 2.7%, harm to the home life or marriage were reported by 2.4%, 2.0% of past-year drinkers reported harm to their employment or studies, 0.8%[Q] experienced harm to their learning and 0.7%[Q] of past-year drinkers reported alcohol-related legal problems during the past year.

The more frequently the respondent had used alcohol over the past year, the more likely that they reported experiencing alcohol-related harm during the past year (Table 14). Males who drank alcohol during the past year were more likely than females to report past-year alcohol-related harm, unless the females drank at the same frequency as the males over the last year, in which case the two sexes were equally likely to report harm associated with alcohol use. Regardless of frequency of alcohol use over the past year, older respondents and those who were married or widowed were less likely to report harm related to alcohol use during the last year than were younger respondents and those living common-law, separated/divorced or single.

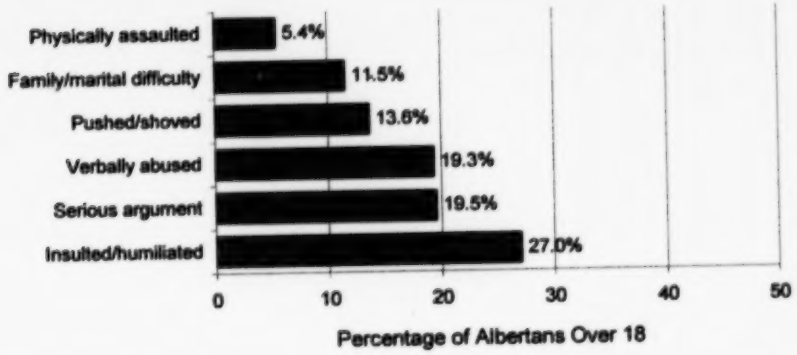
Harm from someone else's drinking

Respondents over the age of 18 years were questioned about negative experiences they have had during the past year as a result of someone else's drinking or drug use. Figure 8 and Table 15 display the results. In Alberta, 27.0% of respondents over 18 years of age had been insulted or humiliated during the past year by someone who was drinking, 19.5% reported having been in a serious argument with someone who had been drinking, 19.3% reported being verbally abused by someone who had been drinking, 13.6% reported being pushed or shoved by someone who had been drinking, 11.5% reported experiencing family or marital difficulties during the past year as a

[Q] Qualified release due to high sampling variability

result of someone else's drinking and 5.4% reported being physically assaulted by someone who had been drinking during the past year.

FIGURE 8: Drinkers in Alberta (Aged 18 Years and Up) Reporting Harm Associated with Someone Else's Alcohol Use During the Past Year



In total, 38.0% of Albertans surveyed over the age of 18 years reported experiencing one or more types of harm as a result of someone else's drinking during the year prior to the survey (Table 16). The likelihood of experiencing one or more types of harm during the past year as a result of someone else's drinking decreased as the age of the respondent increased. Those who were married or widowed were less likely than all the other marital groups to report such harm and those who were single were less likely than those living common-law or separated or divorced. Respondents in the low-income category were more likely to report harm from someone else's drinking than those in the middle-income category or those who did not know their household income. Additionally, respondents in the high-income category were more likely to report such harm than those who did not know their household income. Sex, education, and whether or not a respondent lived in a rural or urban location had no relationship to whether or not a respondent experienced one or more harms as a result of someone else's drinking during the past year, nor was the frequency at which the respondent had drunk alcohol over the past year.

To what extent are Albertans involved in the home production of alcohol?

Eight per cent (7.9%) of Albertans reported producing their own beer or wine in the past year (Table 17). On average, these Albertans each produced between 16 and 110 bottles of beer and/or between 52 and 122 bottles of wine over the course of the year.

TABLE 2: Per cent of Albertans and Canadians (Aged 15 Years and Up) Reporting the Use of Alcohol During the Lifetime and the Past Year

	Lifetime Alcohol Use (%)	Lifetime 95% CI	Past-Year Alcohol Use (%)	Past Year 95% CI
Alberta	93.6 (NS)	[92.5-94.6]	79.5 (NS)	[77.8-81.1]
Canada	92.8	[92.1-93.5]	79.3	[78.3-80.3]

NS: Alberta rate is not significantly different from national rate (p<=0.05).

TABLE 3: Drinking Status of Albertans (Aged 15 Years and Up), by Demographic Characteristics

	Lifetime Drinkers				Lifetime Abstainers	
	Current %	Current 95% CI	Former %	Former 95% CI	Never %	Never 95% CI
Total	79.5	[77.8-81.1]	14.1	[12.7-15.6]	6.4	[5.4-7.5]
Sex	*		NS		*	
Female	76.7	[74.3-78.9]	15.3	[13.5-17.4]	8.0	[6.6-9.6]
Male	82.4	[79.9-84.6]	12.9	[10.9-15.1]	4.8	[3.6-6.2]
Age Group	*		*		NS	
15-17	64.0	[55.0-72.1]	15.2[Q]	[9.8-22.9]	20.8[Q]	[14.5-28.9]
18-29	85.9	[82.9-88.5]	8.4	[6.4-10.8]	5.7[Q]	[4.1-7.9]
30-49	82.3	[79.8-84.5]	13.2	[11.2-15.4]	4.5	[3.4-6.0]
50+	74.1	[70.6-77.3]	19.1	[16.3-22.2]	6.8	[5.1-9.1]
Marital Status	NS		NS		*	
Married or Widowed	77.9	[75.5-80.2]	14.9	[13.0-17.0]	7.2	[5.8-8.8]
Common-Law	87.0	[81.4-91.0]	13.0	[9.0-18.6]	S	S
Separated or Divorced	78.0	[72.1-83.0]	18.8	[14.1-24.6]	3.2[Q]	[1.7-5.9]
Single	81.1	[78.0-83.8]	11.4	[9.3-14.1]	7.5	[5.8-9.6]
Education	*		*		*	
Less than High School	65.5	[59.9-70.6]	22.2	[17.8-27.3]	12.4	[9.1-16.6]
Completed High School	79.3	[75.9-82.4]	14.6	[12.0-17.6]	6.1	[4.4-8.4]
Some Post-secondary	82.8	[80.1-85.2]	13.2	[11.1-15.7]	4.0	[2.9-5.5]
Completed Post-secondary	84.5	[81.3-87.2]	9.3	[7.2-11.9]	6.2	[4.5-8.4]
Income	*		*		*	
Low	62.8	[55.9-69.2]	27.5	[21.7-34.3]	9.7[Q]	[6.6-14.1]
Middle	79.8	[76.8-82.4]	13.9	[11.7-16.4]	6.4	[4.8-8.5]
High	86.6	[83.9-88.9]	10.1	[8.1-12.6]	3.3[Q]	[2.2-4.8]
DK/Refused	75.9	[72.3-79.3]	14.9	[12.2-18.1]	9.2	[7.1-1.8]
Location of Household	NS		NS		NS	
Rural	75.2	[69.6-80.0]	17.0	[13.0-22.0]	7.9	[5.0-12.0]
Urban	80.0	[78.2-81.7]	13.8	[12.3-15.4]	6.2	[5.2-7.3]

* Significant ($p<=0.05$).
NS Not significantly different ($p<=0.05$).
[Q] Qualified release due to high sampling variability.

TABLE 4: Trends in the Prevalence of Past-Year Alcohol Use by Albertans and Canadians (Aged 15 Years and Up)

	Alberta %	Alberta 95% CI	Canada %	Canada 95% CI
NADS (1989)	81.9	[79.3-84.5]	77.7	[76.6-78.8]
CADS (1994)	76.6	[73.8-79.0]	72.3	[71.2-73.4]
CAS (2004)	79.5	[77.7-81.2]	79.3	[78.1-80.5]

TABLE 5: Age of First Alcohol Use Among Albertans (Aged 15 Years and Up) Who Reported Alcohol Use During the Lifetime

Age of First Use	Lifetime Drinkers	95% CI
<10 years	0.9% [Q]	[0.6-1.3]
10 to 14 years	18.3%	[16.7-19.9]
15 to 17 years	41.5%	[39.4-43.6]
18 to 19 years	21.6%	[19.9-23.4]
20 to 29 years	15.4%	[13.8-17.1]
30+ years	2.4%	[1.8-3.3]
AVERAGE	17.2 years	[17.0-17.4]

[Q]Qualified release due to high sampling variability.

TABLE 6: The Use of Illicit Drugs Among Drinkers (Aged 15 Years and Up) in Alberta

	Proportion of Drinkers in Alberta			
	Lifetime %	Lifetime 95% CI	Past Year %	Past Year 95% CI
Alcohol Only	47.5	[45.4-49.6]	80.9	[79.1-82.6]
Alcohol & Cannabis	31.6	[29.7-33.6]	14.7	[13.2-16.4]
Alcohol, Cannabis & Other Illicit	19.9	[18.3-21.6]	3.7	[2.9-4.6]
Alcohol & Other Illicit	1.0 [Q]	[0.6-1.6]	0.6 [Q]	[0.4-1.1]

[Q]Qualified release due to high sampling variability.

TABLE 7: The Frequency of Alcohol Use Among Past-Year Drinkers (Aged 15 Years and Up) in Alberta

	% Past-Year Drinkers	95% CI
Less Than Monthly	25.2	[23.3-27.2]
Monthly	13.5	[12.0-15.1]
2-3 Times Per Month	21.9	[20.1-23.8]
Weekly	16.3	[14.7-18.1]
2-3 Times Per Week	15.5	[13.9-17.3]
4-6 Times Per Week	3.3	[2.6-4.2]
Daily	4.3	[3.4-5.5]

TABLE 8: The Number of Drinks Usually Consumed on a Single Occasion by Past-Year Drinkers (Aged 15 Years and Up) in Alberta

Usual # of Drinks	Past-Year Drinkers	95% CI
1 to 2	62.3%	[60.1-64.5]
3 to 4	18.3%	[16.6-20.1]
5+	19.4%	[17.7-21.3]
AVERAGE	3.2 drinks	[2.9-3.4]

TABLE 9: The Largest Number of Drinks Consumed on a Single Occasion by Past-Year Drinkers (Aged 15 Years and Up) in Alberta

Largest # of Drinks	Past-Year Drinkers	95% CI
1 to 2	26.7%	[24.7-28.8]
3 to 4	25.8%	[23.8-27.9]
5 to 7	19.4%	[17.7-21.3]
8 to 11	12.8%	[11.4-14.4]
12+	15.3%	[13.7-17.0]
AVERAGE	6.3 drinks	[6.0-6.6]

TABLE 10: Overall Patterns of Drinking Among Past-Year Drinkers in Alberta (Aged 15 Years and Up) Over the Past Year

Drinking Pattern over the Past Year	% Past-Year Drinkers	95% CI
Light-Infrequent	51.1	[48.8-53.4]
Light-Frequent	29.5	[27.4-31.7]
Heavy-Infrequent	9.5	[8.2-10.9]
Heavy-Frequent	9.9	[8.6-11.4]

TABLE 11: High-Risk Drinking During the Past Year Among Past-Year Drinkers (Aged 15 Years and Up) in Alberta

	Weekly Heavy Drinking[1]		Monthly Heavy Drinking		Exceeding Low-Risk Drinking Guidelines[2]		AUDIT 8+[3]	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
Total	6.0	[5.0-7.2]	26.5	[24.6-28.6]	22.5	[20.7-24.5]	19.1	[17.4-21.0]
Sex	*		*		*		*	
Female	2.9[Q]	[2.0-4.0]	20.1	[17.8-22.6]	15.7	[13.7-18.0]	11.4	[9.6-13.5]
Male	8.9	[7.2-11.0]	32.6	[29.6-35.8]	29.0	[26.0-32.1]	26.4	[23.5-29.4]
Age Group	*		*		*		*	
15-17	S	S	42.9	[32.3-54.2]	30.9[Q]	[21.5-42.2]	38.2	[27.7-50.0]
18-29	12.2	[9.5-15.4]	46.6	[42.2-51.0]	37.0	[32.8-41.4]	37.3	[33.1-41.8]
30-49	5.2	[3.8-7.1]	24.5	[21.6-27.6]	21.7	[18.9-24.8]	15.8	[13.4-18.7]
50+	1.6[Q]	[0.8-2.9]	10.8	[8.6-13.6]	10.9	[8.5-13.9]	6.5[Q]	[4.6-9.1]
Marital Status	*		*		*		*	
Married or Widowed	2.7[Q]	[1.9-3.9]	15.1	[13.1-17.4]	14.4	[12.3-16.8]	8.8	[7.1-10.8]
Common-Law	14.5[Q]	[9.7-21.0]	39.4	[32.2-47.2]	33.2	[26.2-41.0]	29.7	[23.0-37.3]
Separated or Divorced	S	S	25.4	[19.4-32.5]	21.6	[16.1-28.4]	15.9	[11.0-22.4]
Single	10.6	[8.3-13.4]	43.4	[39.3-47.5]	34.2	[30.4-38.3]	35.4	[31.5-39.5]
Education	NS		*		NS		*	
Less than High School	11.0[Q]	[7.5-15.9]	35.5	[29.4-42.1]	24.0	[18.6-30.3]	30.3	[24.4-37.0]
Completed High School	7.2	[5.3-9.8]	29.4	[25.7-33.5]	24.2	[20.7-28.1]	21.5	[18.1-25.3]
Some Post-secondary	5.8	[4.2-7.9]	27.5	[24.2-31.0]	22.4	[19.4-25.7]	19.1	[16.3-22.4]
Completed Post-secondary	2.5[Q]	[1.4-4.4]	18.1	[14.9-21.8]	20.1	[16.6-24.0]	11.4	[8.8-14.6]
Income	NS		NS		NS		NS	
Low	11.8[Q]	[7.4-18.4]	35.7	[28.0-44.2]	33.9	[26.1-42.6]	32.6	[25.0-41.3]
Middle	5.4	[3.9-7.4]	26.6	[23.4-30.1]	20.2	[17.4-23.4]	17.2	[14.5-20.3]
High	5.2[Q]	[3.7-7.3]	26.2	[23.0-29.7]	24.2	[21.0-27.7]	19	[16.2-22.3]
DK/Refused	6.4[Q]	[4.4-9.1]	24.3	[20.5-28.5]	20.0	[16.6-24.1]	18.1	[14.6-22.2]
Location of Household	NS		NS		NS		NS	
Rural	6.0[Q]	[3.4-10.4]	23.0	[17.8-29.2]	25.0	[19.5-31.3]	14.5[Q]	[10.1-20.2]
Urban	6.0	[4.9-7.2]	26.9	[24.8-29.1]	22.2	[20.3-24.3]	19.6	[17.7-21.6]

[1] Five or more drinks per occasion for males, four or more drinks per occasion for females.
[2] Fifteen or more drinks per week (men) or 10 or more drinks per week (female) or more than two drinks per occasion.
[3] AUDIT score range (0-40); AUDIT (8+)—harmful drinking or potential alcohol dependence.
* Significant ($p<=0.05$).
NS Not significantly different ($p<=0.05$).
[Q] Qualified release due to high sampling variability.
S Estimate suppressed due to unacceptable high sampling variability

TABLE 12: Past-Year Drinkers in Alberta (Aged 15 Years and Up) Reporting Indications of Harmful Use (AUDIT)

AUDIT Item	Past-Year Users %	95% CI
Needed a drink in the morning	2.8	[2.1-3.6]
Failed control	7.9	[6.7-9.2]
Friend/doctor concern	8.6	[7.3-10.0]
Failed expectations	9.7	[8.5-11.1]
Injury to self or other	9.9	[8.7-11.3]
Failed memory	12.1	[10.7-13.7]
Feelings of guilt or remorse	13.3	[11.9-14.9]

TABLE 13: Per cent of Drinkers in Alberta (Aged 15 Years and Up) Reporting Harm Associated with Alcohol Use

Area of Life Harmfully Affected	Lifetime Harm / Lifetime Drinkers		Past-Year Harm / Past-Year Drinkers	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
One or More Harms	28.6	[26.8-30.6	9.5	[8.3-10.9]
Friendship or social life	17.3	[15.8-18.9]	3.5	[2.8-4.4]
Physical health	17.5	[16.0-19.1]	6	[5.0-7.2]
Home life or marriage	9.8	[8.6-11.1]	2.4	[1.8-3.1]
Employment/Studies	8.2	[7.1-9.4]	2	[1.5-2.8]
Financial position	8.4	[7.3-9.6]	2.7	[2.1-3.5]
Legal problems	4.1	[3.4-5.0]	0.7[Q]	[0.4-1.2]
Housing	1.4	[1.0-2.0]	S	S
Learning	3	[2.4-3.8]	0.8[Q]	[0.5-1.2]

[Q] Qualified release due to high sampling variability.
S Estimate suppressed due to unacceptable high sampling variability.

TABLE 14: Albertans Reporting One or More Harms from Their Own Alcohol Use, by Demographic Characteristics

	Lifetime Users: One or More Harms in Lifetime		Past-Year Users: One or More Harms in Past Year	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
Total	28.6	[26.8-30.6]	9.5	[8.3-10.9]
Sex	*		NS	
Female	22.6	[20.4-24.9]	7.3	[5.9-9.0]
Male	34.6	[31.7-37.6]	11.6	[9.7-13.9]
Age Group	*		*	
15-17	31.8	[23.2-41.8]	25.8 Q	[17.3-36.7]
18-29	37.2	[33.2-41.3]	19.8	[16.5-23.5]
30-49	30.8	[27.9-33.8]	6.4	[4.9-8.4]
50+	19.5	[16.6-22.7]	3.2 Q	[2.1-4.9]
Marital Status	*		*	
Married or Widowed	21.7	[19.4-24.2]	3.5	[2.6-4.9]
Common-Law	40.3	[33.5-47.5]	13.6 Q	[9.1-19.8]
Separated or Divorced	31.7	[25.8-38.2]	9.1 Q	[5.6-14.6]
Single	37.2	[33.6-41.0]	19	[16.0-22.4]
Education	NS		NS	
Less than High School	35	[29.6-40.7]	15.7	[11.5-21.1]
Completed High School	28	[24.7-31.7]	11.3	[8.8-14.3]
Some Post-secondary	29.3	[26.2-32.6]	9.1	[7.2-11.5]
Completed Post-secondary	25.1	[21.5-29.0]	5.4 Q	[3.7-7.7]
Income	*		NS	
Low	40.4	[33.6-47.7]	17.7 Q	[12.1-25.1]
Middle	26.4	[23.5-29.5]	8.4	[6.6-10.8]
High	31.5	[28.2-35.1]	8.3	[6.4-10.6]
DK/Refused	23.8	[20.3-27.6]	10.7	[8.1-13.9]
Location of Household	NS		NS	
Rural	27.8	[22.7-33.6]	9.0 Q	[5.7-13.9]
Urban	28.7	[26.8-30.8]	9.6	[8.3-11.1]
Frequency of Alcohol Use During Past Year	*		*	
None	38.8	[33.7-44.1]	N/A	N/A
Less than monthly	18.2	[15.1-21.7]	3.8 Q	[2.4-5.8]
Monthly	18	[13.9-23.1]	6.1 Q	[3.8-9.7]
2-3 times per month	25.4	[21.5-29.7]	8.6	[6.3-11.6]
Weekly	28	[23.2-33.4]	9.6 Q	[6.8-13.4]
2-3 times per week	41.7	[36.0-47.7]	17.4	[13.4-22.3]
4-6 times per week	47.6	[35.3-60.2]	23 Q	[14.1-35.1]
Daily	38.6	[27.4-51.2]	19.3 Q	[12.0-29.6]

* Significant (p<=0.05).
NS Not significantly different (p<=0.05).
Q Qualified release due to high sampling variability.

TABLE 15: Per cent of Albertans (Aged 18 Years and Up) Reporting Harm Associated with Someone Else's Alcohol Use During the Past Year

	%	95% CI
One or more harms	38.0	[36.0-40.0]
Insulted/humiliated	27.0	[25.2-28.9]
Serious argument	19.5	[17.9-21.2]
Verbally abused	19.3	[17.8-21.0]
Pushed/shoved	13.6	[12.3-15.1]
Family/marital difficulty	11.5	[10.3-12.8]
Physically assaulted	5.4	[4.5-6.4]

TABLE 16: Albertans Reporting One or More Harms from Someone Else's Alcohol Use, by Demographic Characteristics

	One or More Harms in Past Year	
	%	95% CI
Total	38	[36.0-40.0]
Sex	NS	
Female	36.1	[33.5-38.7]
Male	39.9	[36.9-43.0]
Age Group	*	
15-17	N/A	N/A
18-29	55.9	[51.8-59.9]
30-49	40.3	[37.2-43.3]
50+	21.7	[18.8-24.9]
Marital Status	*	
Married or Widowed	27.9	[25.5-30.5]
Common-Law	57.8	[50.5-64.7]
Separated or Divorced	44.8	[38.3-51.4]
Single	51.2	[47.1-55.3]
Education	NS	
Less than High School	39	[32.7-45.7]
Completed High School	36.7	[33.0-40.5]
Some Post-secondary	41.1	[38.0-44.8]
Completed Post-secondary	34.6	[30.7-38.6]
Income	*	
Low	51.2	[44.2-58.1]
Middle	38.2	[34.9-41.6]
High	39.6	[36.1-43.2]
DK/Refused	30	[26.1-34.2]
Location of Household	NS	
Rural	39	[33.3-45.0]
Urban	37.9	[35.7-40.0]
Frequency of Alcohol Use in Past Year	NS	
None	34.1	[29.7-38.7]
Less than monthly	36.8	[32.6-41.3]
Monthly	32.4	[26.8-38.6]
2-3 times per month	44.8	[40.0-49.6]
Weekly	37.6	[32.2-43.3]
2-3 times per week	42.7	[37.0-48.7]
4-6 times per week	41.2	[29.2-54.5]
Daily	29.6 [Q]	[20.3-41.2]

* Significant (p<=0.05).
NS Not significantly different (p<=0.05).
[Q] Qualified release due to high sampling variability

TABLE 17: Home Production of Beer and Wine in Alberta

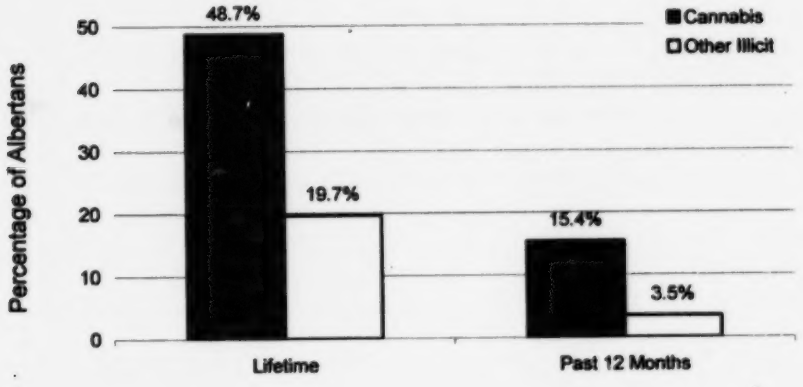
	% / N	95% CI
% Producing Beer or Wine	7.9	[6.2-10.1]
Average # Bottles Beer Made	62.6 [Q]	[15.6-109.6]
Average # Bottles Wine Made	86.8[Q]	[51.8-121.8]

[Q] Qualified release due to high sampling variability.

Illicit Drug Use and Problems

What is the lifetime prevalence of illicit drug use in Alberta?

FIGURE 9: Albertans (Aged 15 Years and Up) Reporting the Lifetime and Past-Year Use of Illicit Drugs



Cannabis. Figure 9 and tables 18 and 19 display the lifetime and past-year prevalence of cannabis and other illicit drugs among Albertans sampled. By far the most commonly reported illicit drug used by Albertans over the age of 15 years during their lifetime is cannabis with almost one-half (48.7%) of those sampled reporting use at some point during their lifetime (approximately 1.1 million Albertans). The Alberta rate of lifetime cannabis use is significantly higher than the national rate of 44.5% of all Canadians over 15 years of age.

Females and older respondents were more likely than males and younger respondents to report that they have never used cannabis (Table 20). Additionally, respondents who were married/widowed or single were more likely to report never using cannabis than those who were living common-law or who were separated/divorced at the time of the survey. Those who did not know or refused to state their income were more likely to report never using cannabis than those who reported an income, and further, those in the high-income range were less likely to report never using cannabis than those in the middle-income range.

Illicit Drugs Other than Cannabis. About one in five Albertans sampled (19.7%) reported the use of an illicit drug other than cannabis during their lifetime (approximately 460,000 Albertans; Table 19). Of these, cocaine/crack and hallucinogens were the most commonly reported drugs used by Albertans during the lifetime, both reported by 12.3% of those sampled (Table 18). Speed (including other stimulant drugs such as methamphetamine) was used by 6.1% of Albertans surveyed during their lifetime and ecstasy by 5.1%. Heroin,

solvents, and steroids were used by less than 2%[Q] of Albertans surveyed during their lifetime. As with cannabis, the Alberta prevalence of other illicit drug use during the lifetime is significantly higher than the national average of 17.0% of all Canadians.

As with cannabis, females and older respondents were more likely than males and younger respondents to report that they have never used an illicit drug other than cannabis (Table 21). Additionally, those who were living common-law or who were separated/divorced at time of the survey were less likely to report never using an illicit drug other than cannabis than those married/widowed or single. Those with only some post-secondary education were significantly less likely than those with a completed post-secondary education to report never using an illicit drug other than cannabis. Having never used an illicit drug other than cannabis was less likely among those in the low-income range than those in the middle-income range, and respondents who reported they did not know their income level were more likely to report never using an illicit drug other than cannabis than those who reported an income.

Intravenous Drug Use. Just over 1% of Albertans (1.2%, approximately 28,000 Albertans) reported injecting an illicit drug at least once during their lifetime (Table 22). This is about the same as the national prevalence of 1.0%.

What is the past-year prevalence of illicit drug use in Alberta?

As with lifetime drug use, cannabis was the illicit drug used by the highest number of Albertans during the past year (15.4%, approximately 360,000 Albertans; see Figure 9 and tables 18 and 19). The Alberta prevalence of past-year cannabis use is not significantly higher than the national prevalence of 14.1% of all Canadians.

As with lifetime use, the use of cannabis during the past year was significantly higher among males and those who were younger, while respondents who were married/widowed or single were less likely to use than those living common-law or separated/divorced (Table 20). Those respondents who had a complete post-secondary education were significantly less likely to report the past-year use of cannabis.

Only 3.5% of Albertans sampled reported the use of an illicit drug other than cannabis during the past year (approximately 82,000 Albertans; Table 19), with the largest proportion being cocaine use at 2.4% (Table 18). Less than 1%[Q] of Alberta respondents reporting the past-year use of hallucinogens, ecstasy, speed or steroids and there were no respondents who reported the past-year use of heroin or solvents. The Alberta prevalence rate for illicit drugs other than cannabis is not significantly different from the national rate of 3.1% of all Canadians.

[Q] Qualified release due to high sampling variability

The use of illicit drugs other than cannabis during the past year was significantly higher among males and those who were younger, while respondents who were married/widowed or single were less likely to use than those living common-law or separated/divorced (Table 21).

How many Albertans are former illicit drug users?

One-third (33.2%) of Albertans are former cannabis users, meaning they have used cannabis at some point during their lifetime but not in the 12 months prior to the survey (Table 20), corresponding to almost 70% (68.2%) of lifetime cannabis users (not shown). An even larger proportion (82.0%) of persons who had used an illicit drug other than cannabis during their lifetime had not done so in the previous year (not shown), meaning that 16.1% of Albertans are former users of illicit drugs other than cannabis (Table 21).

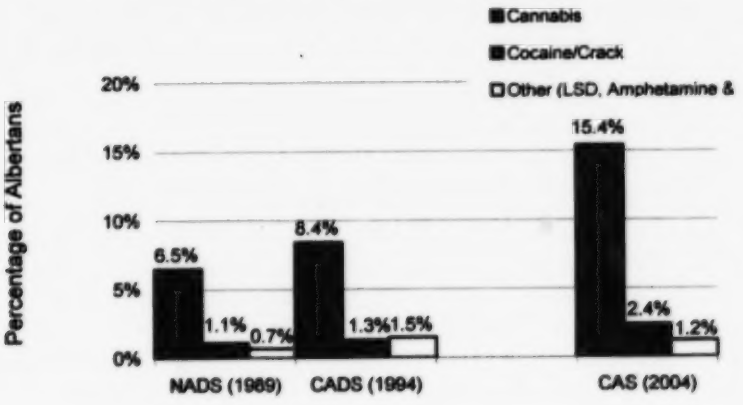
Among those who reported lifetime use, the likelihood of being a former illicit drug user (cannabis and/or other drugs) was higher for females and increased with age. Those married/widowed were more likely to be former cannabis users than those in other marital categories and those with completed post-secondary education were more likely to be former users than those with lower levels of education.

What have been the trends in illicit drug use in Alberta?

As measured by the NADS in 1989, the CADS in 1994, and now the CAS in 2004, the proportion of Albertans reporting the use of cannabis in the previous year has more than doubled in the last 15 years from 6.5% in 1989 to 15.4% in 2004 (Figure 10 and Table 23).* The prevalence of cocaine/crack use has also shown an increase: in 1989 1.1% of Albertans reported using cocaine/crack in the previous year; 1.3% reported its use in 1994; and 2.4% reported use in 2004. The use of other illicit drugs (LSD, speed/amphetamine or heroin) has fluctuated around 1% over the 15 years: 0.7% in 1989, 1.5% in 1994 and 1.2% in 2004.

* Caution should be used in interpreting these trends because the variance estimates from the previous surveys are not available to verify that observed changes in drug use rates can be reliably attributed to actual changes in the population rather than reflecting sampling-related variance.

FIGURE 10: Trends in the Past-Year Use of Cannabis, Cocaine and Other Illicit Drugs Among Albertans (Aged 15 Years and Up) Between 1989 and 2004



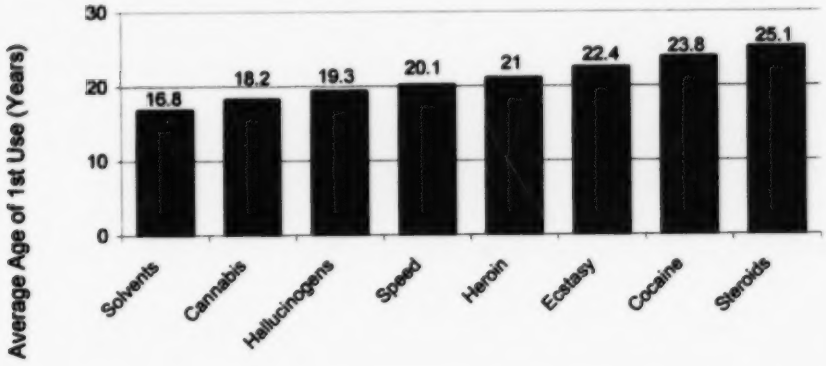
Other Sources:

Eliany, M., Giesbrecht, N., & Nelson, M. (1990). *National Alcohol and Other Drugs Survey: Highlights Report*. Ottawa, ON: Health and Welfare Canada.

MacNeil, P., & Webster, I. (1997). *Canada's Alcohol and Other Drugs Survey 1994: A Discussion of th Findings*. Ottawa, ON: Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada.

At what age do illicit drug users in Alberta start using drugs?

FIGURE 11: Average Age of First Use of Illicit Drugs Among Lifetime Users in Alberta (Aged 15 Years and Up)

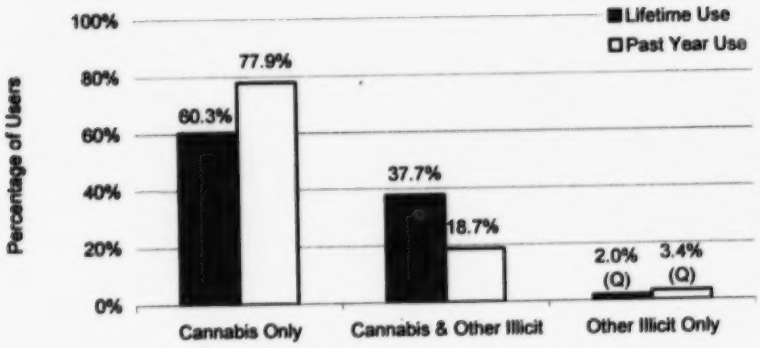


Solvent use had the earliest age of onset among Albertans sampled with an average age of first use of 16.8[Q] years (Figure 11 and Table 24). Cannabis use began on average at 18.2 years, hallucinogen use at 19.3 years, speed use at 20.1 years, heroin use at 21.0 years, ecstasy use at 22.4 years, and cocaine use at 23.8 years. Steroid use had the latest age of onset, at 25.1[Q] years.

[Q] Qualified release due to high sampling variability

Poly-drug use

FIGURE 12: Poly-Drug Use Among Lifetime and Past-Year Drug Users in Alberta (Aged 15 Years and Up)



[Q] Qualified release due to high sampling variability

Considering lifetime use of illicit drugs, the majority (60.3%) of illicit drug users in Alberta reported using only cannabis (Figure 12 and Table 25), 37.7% used at least one other illicit drug in addition to cannabis and 2.0%[Q] used only an illicit drug other than cannabis. Focusing on use the year prior to the survey, an even larger proportion (77.9%) of illicit drugs users reported using only cannabis, 18.7% used cannabis and at least one other illicit drug, and 3.4%[Q] used only an illicit drug other than cannabis during the past year.

How often do illicit drug users in Alberta use drugs?

About one in five past-year cannabis users (19.4%) reported that they had not used the substance at all during the previous three months (Table 26), while about the same proportion (18.7%) reported using it daily or almost daily during the last three months. Fifteen per cent of past-year cannabis users used the substance monthly and about one quarter of past-year cannabis users used it less than monthly (24.4%) or weekly (22.5%). The vast majority of past-year users of illicit drugs other than cannabis either did not use at all during the past three months (37.4%) or used less than monthly (49.6%).

The Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST)

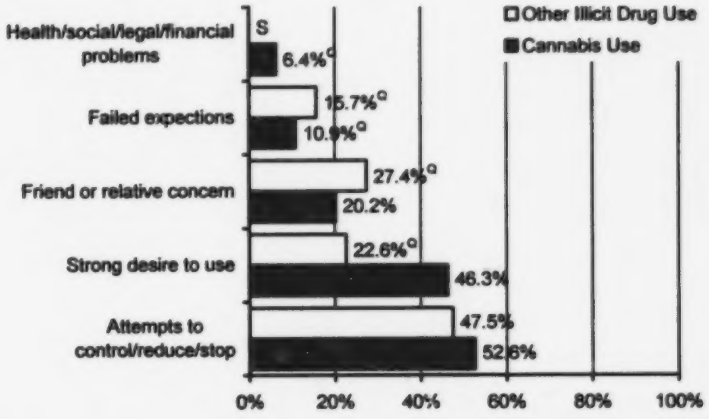
The World Health Organization (WHO) Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST) estimates the need for intervention associated with cannabis use and the use of illicit drugs other than cannabis

[Q] Qualified release due to high sampling variability

separately (WHO ASSIST Working Group, 2002). Asked of past-year cannabis users and users of any other illicit drug during the past year, the questions include the following:

- In your life, which of the following substances [cannabis/these drugs] have you ever used?
- In the past three months, how often have you used [cannabis/these drugs]?
- During the past three months, how often have you had a strong desire or urge to use [cannabis/cocaine or crack, speed or amphetamines, hallucinogens, PCP or LSD, ecstasy or heroin]?
- During the past three months, how often has your use of [cannabis/these drugs] led to health, social, legal or financial problems?
- During the past three months, how often have you failed to do what was normally expected of you because of your use of [cannabis/these drugs]?
- Has a friend or relative or anyone else ever expressed concern about your use of [cannabis/these drugs]?
- Have you ever tried to control, cut down or stop using [cannabis/these drugs]?

FIGURE 13: ASSIST Indicators of Drug Use Risk Among Albertans (Aged 15 Years and Up) Reporting Use in the Previous 3 Months



Q Qualified release due to high sampling variability.
S Estimate suppressed due to unacceptable high sampling variability.

About one in five (22.1%) Albertans who reported the use of cannabis during the previous three months scored in the low-risk range of the ASSIST scale, indicating no need for intervention (Table 27). The remainder (77.9%) of

respondents who reported the use of cannabis during the previous three months scored in the moderate or high-risk ranges of the ASSIST scale, indicating the need for intervention. For users of illicit drugs other than cannabis, just over one-third (37.6%[Q]) scored in the low-risk range of the ASSIST scale and 62.4% scored in the moderate or high risk ranges.

Figure 13 and Table 28 display the percentage of Albertans who used cannabis and/or other illicit drugs during the past three months and indicated that they had experienced each ASSIST indicator of drug-use risk.

Cannabis Use: Just over one-half (52.6%) of Albertans who reported the use of cannabis during the previous three months also reported trying to control, reduce or stop their cannabis use at some point during their lifetime. Almost one half of cannabis users (46.3%) reported experiencing a strong desire to use the substance during the previous three months, about one in five (20.2%) reported that a friend or family member had expressed concern about their cannabis use at some point during their lifetime, 10.9%[Q] cannabis users reported having failed to do something expected of them in the previous three months as a result of their use, and 6.4%[Q] of cannabis users had experienced health, social, legal or financial problems in the last three months as a result of their use.

Other Illicit Drug Use: Of those Albertans who reported using an illicit drug other than cannabis during the three months prior to the survey, almost one-half (47.5%) reported having made the attempt to control, reduce or stop their use at some point during their lives, 27.4%[Q] reported that a friend or relative had expressed concern about their use at some point during their lives, 22.6%[Q] reported that they had experienced a strong desire to use the substance during the previous three months, and 15.7%[Q] had failed to do something expected of them during the past three months as a result of their drug use.

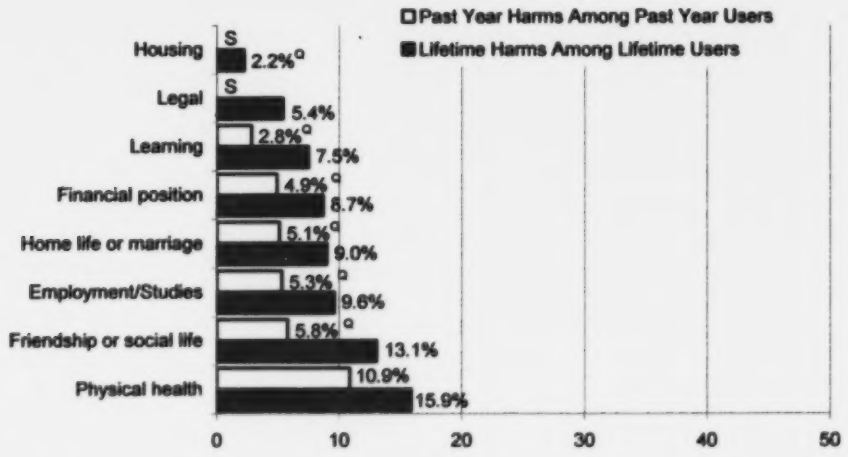
What forms of harm do Albertans report as a result of their own illicit drug use?

As shown in Table 29, about one-quarter (26.1%) of lifetime illicit drug users reported harm in at least one of these life areas and 18.4% of past-year users experienced one of these harms related to their use in the last year. The more frequently a respondent used illicit drugs during the previous three months, the more likely they were to report lifetime and past-year harm associated with use.

The proportion of lifetime illicit drug users in Alberta who report harm in their lifetime related to their drug use and the proportion of past-year users who have experienced such harm during the previous 12 months are displayed in Figure 14 and Table 30.

[Q] Qualified release due to high sampling variability

FIGURE 14: Per cent of Illicit Drug Users in Alberta (Aged 15 Years and Up) Reporting Harm to Each Life Area



Q Qualified release due to high sampling variability.
S Estimate suppressed due to unacceptable high sampling variability

Lifetime Harm Among Lifetime Users: Physical health was the life area reportedly harmed the most by illicit drug use over the course of the lifetime with 15.9% of lifetime illicit drug users reportedly experiencing drug-related harm to their physical health as a result of their drug use at some point during their lives. Lifetime harm to friendships/social life were reported by 13.1% of lifetime illicit drug users, 9.6% reported harm to their employment/studies, 9.0% reported harm to their home life/marriage, 8.7% reported harm to their financial situation, 7.5% reported harm to learning, 5.4% reported lifetime legal problems and 2.2%Q reported drug-related harm to their housing situation at some point during their lifetime.

Among those respondents who reported the lifetime use of illicit drugs, the likelihood of experiencing one or more types of drug-related harm during the lifetime decreased with age and was lower for those who had a completed post-secondary education. Those in the low-income category were more likely to report harm, as were those in rural settings (unless urban respondents used drugs at the same frequency as rural residents, in which case, there was no difference in the rate of harm). Males were more likely than females to report lifetime harms unless the females used illicit drugs at the same frequency as the males over the last three months, in which case, the two sexes were equally likely to report lifetime harms.

Past-Year Harm Among Past-Year Users: Physical health was the life area most likely to have been harmed by illicit drug use during the past year with 10.9% of past-year illicit drug users reportedly experiencing drug-related harm

Q Qualified release due to high sampling variability

to their physical health as a result of their drug use at some point during the last year. Past-year harm to friendships/social life were reported by 5.8%[Q] of past-year illicit drug users, 5.3%[Q] reported harm to their employment/studies, 5.1%[Q] reported harm to their home life/marriage, 4.9%[Q] reported harm to their financial situation and 2.8%[Q] of lifetime illicit drug users reported drug-related harm to their learning at some point during the past 12 months.

In terms of demographic characteristics, the only differences that could be found was that the likelihood of past-year drug-related harm among past-year users decreased with age and was higher in rural settings than in urban settings.

How many Albertans use cannabis for medicinal purposes?

Just over one-third (36.3%) of a sub-sample of past-year cannabis users reported that they had intentionally used cannabis to treat a medical condition during the past year (Tables 31 and 32). The most common condition cited was "pain," with about half the respondents (54.2%) reporting it as a reason for cannabis use, followed by "depression" at 14.6%[Q] and "nausea" at 7.9%.[Q] A significant proportion of respondents, about one in five (19.8%[Q]), who reported using cannabis for a medical condition responded "other" when asked which of these conditions it was used for.

TABLE 18: The Lifetime and Past-Year Prevalence of Cannabis and Other Illicit Drug Use Among Albertans (Aged 15 Years and Up)

	Lifetime %	Lifetime 95% CI	Past 12 Months %	Past 12 Months 95% CI
Cannabis	48.7	[46.6-50.7]	15.4	[14.0-16.9]
Cocaine	12.3	[11.1-13.7]	2.4	[1.8-3.1]
Speed	6.1	[5.2-7.1]	0.4[Q]	[0.2-0.7]
Ecstasy	5.1	[4.3-6.0]	0.8[Q]	[0.5-1.2]
Hallucinogens	12.3	[11.1-13.7]	0.9[Q]	[0.6-1.4]
Heroin	1.2[Q]	[0.8-1.8]	S	S
Steroids	0.8[Q]	[0.5-1.3]	S	S
Solvents	1.6[Q]	[1.2-2.2]	S	S
Any one of the above 6	49.1	[47.1-51.1]	15.9	[14.5-17.4]

[Q] Qualified release due to high sampling variability.
S Estimate suppressed due to unacceptable high sampling variability.

[Q] Qualified release due to high sampling variability

TABLE 19: The Lifetime and Past-Year Prevalence of Cannabis and Other Illicit Drug Use Among Albertans and Canadians (Aged 15 Years and Up)

	Cannabis				Illicit Drugs Other Than Cannabis*			
	Lifetime Use (%)	Lifetime 95% CI	Past-Year Use (%)	Past Year 95% CI	Lifetime Use (%)	Lifetime 95% CI	Past-Year Use (%)	Past Year 95% CI
Alberta	48.7	[46.6-50.7]	15.4	[14.0-16.9]	19.7	[18.1-21.3]	3.5	[2.9-4.3]
Canada	44.5	[43.2-45.7]	14.1	[13.3-15.0]	17.0	[16.1-17.9]	3.1	[2.7-3.5]

* Includes cocaine, speed, ecstasy, hallucinogens, heroin, steroids and solvent use.

TABLE 20: Cannabis Use Status Among Albertans (Aged 15 Years and Up), by Demographic Characteristics

	Lifetime Abstainers		Lifetime Users			
	Never %	Never 95% CI	Former %	Former 95% CI	Current %	Current 95% CI
Total	51.3	[49.3-53.4]	33.2	[31.3-35.1]	15.5	[14.1-17.0]
Sex	*		*		*	
Female	56.1	[53.4-58.7]	33.4	[31.0-36.0]	10.5	[9.0-12.2]
Male	46.5	[43.5-49.6]	32.9	[30.1-35.8]	20.6	[18.3-23.1]
Age Group	*		*		*	
15-17	58.0	[48.9-66.5]	15.9Q	[10.3-23.6]	26.2	[19.1-34.8]
18-29	38.3	[34.4-42.3]	29.1	[25.5-32.9]	32.7	[28.9-36.6]
30-49	37.4	[34.4-40.4]	47.2	[44.1-50.3]	15.4	[13.3-17.9]
50+	76.0	[72.8-79.0]	22.0	[19.1-25.2]	2.0Q	[1.3-3.2]
Marital Status	*		*		*	
Married or Widowed	61.5	[58.8-64.2]	32.9	[30.3-35.5]	5.6	[4.5-7.0]
Common-Law	24.0	[18.3-30.7]	44.4	[37.4-51.6]	31.6	[25.3-38.8]
Separated or Divorced	44.3	[37.8-51.0]	38.1	[32.0-44.7]	17.6	[13.2-23.2]
Single	41.2	[37.5-44.9]	29.9	[26.6-33.3]	29.0	[25.7-32.4]
Education	NS		*		*	
Less than High School	52.1	[46.6-57.6]	25.7	[21.3-30.6]	22.2	[18.0-27.0]
Completed High School	52.8	[48.9-56.7]	31.1	[27.7-34.8]	16.1	[13.5-19.1]
Some Post-secondary	47.4	[44.0-50.9]	35.6	[32.4-39.0]	17.0	[14.5-19.7]
Completed Post-secondary	53.6	[49.5-57.7]	37.4	[33.5-41.5]	9.0	[6.9-11.6]
Income	*		NS		NS	
Low	48.9	[42.1-55.7]	32.2	[26.3-38.7]	18.9	[14.2-24.7]
Middle	52.6	[49.2-56.0]	31.8	[28.8-35.0]	15.6	[13.3-18.2]
High	41.5	[38.0-45.1]	42.8	[39.3-46.3]	15.7	[13.3-18.5]
DK/Refused	63.2	[59.1-67.0]	23.0	[19.7-26.6]	13.9	[11.3-16.9]
Location of Household	NS		NS		NS	
Rural	56.2	[50.4-61.9]	33.2	[28.0-38.8]	10.6	[7.4-14.9]
Urban	50.8	[48.6-52.9]	33.2	[31.2-35.2]	16.0	[14.5-17.7]

* Significant (p<=0.05).
NS Not significantly different (p<=0.05).
Q Qualified release due to high sampling variability.

TABLE 21: Status of Use for One or More Illicit Drugs Other Than Cannabis Among Albertans (Aged 15 Years and Up), by Demographic Characteristics

	Never %	Never 95% CI	Former %	Former 95% CI	Current %	Current 95% CI
Total	80.3	[78.7-81.9]	16.1	[14.7-17.6]	3.5	[2.9-4.4]
Sex	*		*		*	
Female	84.0	[82.0-85.8]	14.1	[12.4-16.0]	1.9	[1.3-2.8]
Male	76.6	[74.0-79.1]	18.2	[16.0-20.6]	5.2	[4.0-6.6]
Age Group	*		*		*	
15-17	90.9	[84.2-94.9]	S	S	S	S
18-29	69.8	[65.9-73.4]	19.2	[16.1-22.6]	11.1	[8.7-14.0]
30-49	74.5	[71.6-77.1]	23.5	[20.9-26.2]	2.1 Q	[1.3-3.2]
50+	93.1	[91.1-94.7]	6.9	[5.3-8.9]	0.0	0.0
Marital Status	*		NS		*	
Married or Widowed	87.8	[85.9-89.5]	11.5	[9.8-13.3]	0.7 Q	[0.4-1.3]
Common-Law	57.9	[50.7-64.8]	34.2	[27.8-41.3]	7.9 Q	[4.7-12.8]
Separated or Divorced	73.9	[67.7-79.2]	23.7	[18.6-29.6]	S	S
Single	74.0	[70.6-77.1]	18.0	[15.4-21.0]	8.0	[6.2-10.2]
Education	*		NS		NS	
Less than High School	78.0	[73.2-82.1]	16.8	[13.1-21.2]	5.3	[3.4-8.2]
Completed High School	80.7	[77.5-83.5]	15.9	[13.3-18.9]	3.4	[2.3-5.1]
Some Post-secondary	76.7	[73.7-79.5]	19.4	[16.8-22.2]	3.9	[2.8-5.5]
Completed Post-secondary	85.9	[82.8-88.4]	11.9	[9.6-14.8]	2.2	[1.3-3.8]
Income	*		NS		NS	
Low	72.0	[65.6-77.6]	23.1	[18.0-29.2]	4.9 Q	[2.7-8.6]
Middle	79.7	[76.9-82.3]	17.1	[14.7-19.8]	3.1 Q	[2.2-4.5]
High	77.3	[74.2-80.2]	18.4	[15.8-21.3]	4.2 Q	[3.0-5.9]
DK/Refused	88.0	[85.1-90.4]	9.2	[7.2-11.8]	2.8 Q	[1.7-4.5]
Location of Household	NS		NS		NS	
Rural	79.1	[73.9-83.6]	18.1	[14.0-23.1]	2.8	[1.3-5.8]
Urban	80.5	[78.7-82.1]	15.9	[14.4-17.5]	3.6	[2.9-4.4]

* Significant (p<=0.05).
NS Not significantly different (p<=0.05).
Q Qualified release due to high sampling variability.
S Estimate suppressed due to unacceptable high sampling variability.

TABLE 22: Lifetime Intravenous Drug Use Among Albertans and Canadians (Aged 15 Years and Up)

	Lifetime (%)	95% CI
Alberta	1.2[Q]	[0.9-1.7]
Canada	1.0	[0.8-1.3]

[Q] Qualified release due to high sampling variability.

TABLE 23: Trends in the Past-Year Use of Cannabis, Cocaine and Other Illicit Drugs in Alberta Between 1989 and 2004

	NADS 1989	CADS 1994	CAS 2004
Cannabis	6.5%	8.4%	15.4%
Cocaine/Crack	1.1%	1.3%	2.4%
Other (LSD, Speed or Amphetamines & Heroin)	0.7%	1.5%	1.2%

TABLE 24: Age at First Use of Illicit Drugs Among Lifetime Users in Alberta

	Average Age % [95% CI]	0-9 Years % [95% CI]	10-14 Years % [95% CI]	15-19 Years % [95% CI]	20-29 Years % [95% CI]	30 Years or Older % [95% CI]
Solvents	16.8[Q] [10.5-23.1]	S	58.3 [42.4-72.6]	S	S	S
Hallucinogens	19.3 [18.0-20.6]	S	6.7[Q] [4.4-10.1]	67.1 [61.6-72.2]	24.0 [19.5-29.2]	S
Cannabis	18.2 [17.8-18.6]	S	16.9 [14.9-19.2]	59.1 [56.3-61.9]	18.9 [16.7-21.2]	4.4 [3.3-6.0]
Speed	20.1 [19.1-21.2]	S	S	52.3 [44.4-60.1]	41.3 [33.8-49.3]	S
Steroids	25.1 [Q] [15.1-35.1]	S	S	38.8[Q] [20.4-61.0]	49.5[Q] [28.8-70.3]	S
Heroin	21.0 [19.0-22.9]	S	S	49.7[Q] [31.4-68.0]	45.4[Q] [27.5-64.5]	S
Ecstasy	22.4 [20.5-24.3]	S	S	40.8 [32.5-49.6]	47.4 [38.8-56.1]	8.6 [Q] [4.8-15.1]
Cocaine	23.8 [22.2-25.3]	S	S	35.1 [29.9-40.6]	50.0 [44.4-55.6]	14.1 [10.5-18.6]

[Q] Qualified release due to high sampling variability.
S Estimate suppressed due to unacceptable high sampling variability.

TABLE 25: Poly-Drug Use Among Lifetime and Past-Year Drug Users in Alberta (Aged 15 Years and Up)

	Lifetime Use		Past-Year Use	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
Cannabis Only	60.3	[57.5-63.1]	77.9	[73.5-81.8]
Cannabis & Other Illicit	37.7	[35.0-40.5]	18.7	[15.1-22.9]
Other Illicit Only	2.0[Q]	[1.2-3.0]	3.4[Q]	[2.0-5.7]

[Q] Qualified release due to high sampling variability.

TABLE 26: The Frequency of Illicit Drug Use During the Last 3 Months Among Past-Year Users in Alberta (Aged 15 Years and Up)

	Never % [95% CI]	Less Than Monthly % [95% CI]	Monthly % [95% CI]	Weekly % [95% CI]	Daily or Almost Daily % [95% CI]
Cannabis	19.4 [15.8-23.7]	24.4 [22.1-27.8]	15.0 [11.7-19.0]	22.5 [18.5-27.1]	18.7 [15.0-23.0]
Other Illicit Drug	37.4 [27.7-48.3]	49.6 [39.0-60.3]	S	S	S

S Estimate suppressed due to unacceptable high sampling variability.

TABLE 27 ASSIST Risk Level for Cannabis and Other Illicit Drug Use Among Albertans Reporting Use in the Past 3 Months

	Cannabis Use % [95% CI]	Other Illicit Drug Use % [95% CI]
Low Risk	22.1 [17.7-27.3]	37.6[Q] [25.2-51.8]
Moderate/High Risk	77.9 [72.7-82.3]	62.4 [48.2-74.8]

[Q] Qualified release due to high sampling variability.
ASSIST score range (0-39); ASSIST (4+) – moderate/high risk of developing problems, need for intervention.

TABLE 28: ASSIST Indicators of Drug Use Risk Among Albertans (Aged 15 Years and Up) Reporting Use in the Past 3 Months

ASSIST Item	Cannabis Use		Other Illicit Drug Use	
	Past 3 Month Users %	Past 3 Month Users 95% CI	Past 3 Month Users %	Past 3 Month Users 95% CI
Strong desire to use*	46.3	[40.6-52.1]	22.6[Q]	[13.0-36.3]
Health/social/legal/financial problems*	6.4[Q]	[4.1-9.8]	S	S
Failed to do as expected*	10.9[Q]	[7.7-15.1]	15.7[Q]	[8.0-28.4]
Friend or relative has expressed concern**	20.2	[15.9-25.2]	27.4[Q]	[16.7-41.5]
Attempts to control/ reduce/stop use**	52.6	[46.9-58.3]	47.5	[34.1-61.4]

* In the past 3 months.
** In the lifetime.
[Q] Qualified release due to high sampling variability.
S Estimate suppressed due to unacceptable high sampling variability.

TABLE 29: Albertans Reporting One or More Harms from Their Own Drug Use, by Demographic Characteristics

	Lifetime Harm Among Lifetime Users		Past-Year Harm Among Past-Year Users	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
Total	26.1	[23.7-28.6]	18.4	[14.8-22.7]
Sex	*		NS	
Female	23	[19.9-26.4]	17.5Q	[12.2-24.5]
Male	28.6	[25.1-32.4]	18.9	[14.4-24.5]
Age Group	*		*	
15-17	46.8	[33.5-60.6]	43.2Q	[27.1-60.9]
18-29	35.3	[30.5-40.4]	20.1	[15.0-26.4]
30-49	22.4	[19.2-25.9]	11.6Q	[7.3-18.1]
50+	15.7Q	[11.2-21.6]	S	S
Marital Status	NS		NS	
Married or Widowed	18.5	[15.4-22.1]	13.4Q	[7.5-22.8]
Common-Law	35.4	[27.9-43.6]	S	S
Separated or Divorced	20.9Q	[14.8-28.8]	S	S
Single	33.7	[29.3-38.4]	23	[17.7-29.2]
Education	*		NS	
Less than High School	38.8	[31.7-46.4]	29.1Q	[20.3-39.9]
Completed High School	27.9	[23.2-33.0]	24.7Q	[17.4-33.7]
Some Post-secondary	28.2	[24.2-32.6]	12.1Q	[7.6-18.8]
Completed Post-secondary	12.8	[9.4-17.2]	S	S
Income	*		NS	
Low	43.1	[34.4-52.2]	24.7Q	[14.0-39.7]
Middle	23.6	[19.8-27.9]	13.5Q	[8.7-20.3]
High	24	[20.3-28.2]	16.6Q	[10.9-24.3]
DK/Refused	26.2	[20.8-32.4]	26.6Q	[18.0-37.4]
Location of Household	*		*	
Rural	34	[26.2-42.8]	39.7Q	[23.7-58.2]
Urban	25.3	[22.8-27.9]	16.8	[13.2-21.1]
Frequency of Drug Use in Past 3 Months	*		*	
Never	21.3	[18.8-24.1]	16.0Q	[9.3-26.0]
Once or Twice	18.3Q	[11.6-27.7]	S	S
Monthly	36.4Q	[25.0-49.5]	17.3Q	[9.5-29.4]
Weekly	55.5	[44.8-65.7]	25.9Q	[17.6-36.3]
Daily or Almost Daily	53.1	[41.4-64.5]	26.9Q	[17.7-38.6]

* Significant (p<=0.05).
** Unless the groups used drugs at the same frequency over the last 3 months in which case they do not differ.
NS Not significantly different (p<=0.05).
Q Qualified release due to high sampling variability.

TABLE 30: Per cent of Illicit Drug Users in Alberta (Aged 15 Years and Up) Reporting Harm to Each Life Area

Area of Life Harmfully Affected	Lifetime Harm / Lifetime Users		Past-Year Harm / Past-Year Users	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
Friendship or social life	13.1	[11.4-15.2]	5.8Q	[3.9-8.6]
Physical health	15.9	[13.9-18.1]	10.9	[8.1-14.4]
Home life or marriage	9.0	[7.6-10.8]	5.1Q	[3.3-7.8]
Employment/Studies	9.6	[8.1-11.4]	5.3Q	[3.4-8.1]
Financial position	8.7	[7.2-10.4]	4.9Q	[3.1-7.6]
Legal problems	5.4	[4.2-6.8]	S	S
Housing	2.2Q	[1.5-3.2]	S	S
Learning	7.5	[6.2-9.1]	2.8Q	[1.5-5.0]

Q Qualified release due to high sampling variability.
S Estimate suppressed due to unacceptable high sampling variability.

TABLE 31: The Per cent of Past-Year Cannabis Users in Alberta (Aged 15 Years and Up) Reporting Use for a Medical Condition

	%	95% CI
Used Cannabis for a Medical Condition	36.3	[31.6-41.3]

TABLE 32: The Medical Condition Cited as the Reason for Cannabis Use Among those Albertans (Aged 15 Years and Up) Reporting Past-Year Cannabis Use for a Medical Condition

Reason for Cannabis Use	%	95% CI
Pain	54.2	[45.7-62.4]
Depression	14.6Q	[9.6-21.6]
Nausea (increase appetite)	7.9Q	[4.4-13.9]
Anxiety/Nerves	S	S
Other	19.8Q	[13.9-27.3]

Q Qualified release due to high sampling variability.
S Estimate suppressed due to unacceptable high sampling variability.

Other Findings

Substance use and driving

Table 33 displays findings related to substance use and driving. When asked, 9.1% of Albertans (approximately 214,000 Albertans) reported that they had driven a vehicle during the past year after consuming two or more alcoholic drinks in the previous hour and twice as many (18.2%; approximately 427,000 Albertans) reported that they had been a passenger in a vehicle driven by someone who had consumed two or more alcoholic drinks in the previous hour during the past year.

Just about 5% (4.7%) of Albertans reported that during the past year, they had driven a vehicle within two hours of using cannabis (approximately 110,000 Albertans) and almost three times that number (13.5%) reported they had been a passenger in a vehicle during the last year driven by someone who had used cannabis in the previous two hours (approximately 317,000 Albertans).

TABLE 33: Substance Use and Driving in Alberta

	% Albertans	95% CI
Drove a motor vehicle after having two or more drinks in the previous hour during the last 12 months.	9.1	[7.2-11.4]
Drove a motor within 2 hours of using cannabis during the last 12 months.	4.7	[3.4-6.4]
Passenger in vehicle driven by someone who had 2 or more drinks in the previous hour during the last 12 months.	18.2	[15.7-21.0]
Passenger in vehicle driven by someone who used cannabis in previous two hours during the last 12 months.	13.5	[11.3-16.0]

Treatment

As displayed in Table 34, about 5% (5.4%) of Albertans who have used alcohol or illicit drugs reported that they felt they needed treatment for alcohol or drug use at some point during their lives (approximately 106,000 Albertans) and for 14.7%[Q] of those who said yes, this was during the last 12 months (approximately 16,000 Albertans). In terms of actually receiving treatment, 3.6% of Albertans who have used alcohol or illicit drugs have received professional help in their lifetime (approximately 70,000 Albertans), 28.2%[Q] of them in the past 12 months (approximately 21,000 Albertans).

[Q] Qualified release due to high sampling variability

TABLE 34: Substance Use Treatment

	Lifetime Alcohol and/or Drug Users in Alberta %	95% CI
Ever thought you might need professional help with alcohol or drug use?	5.4	[4.5-6.5]
If yes, was this in the last 12 months?	14.7[Q]	[9.1-23.0]
Ever received professional help for alcohol or drug use?	3.6	[2.9-4.5]
If yes, was this in the last 12 months?	28.2[Q]	[18.9-39.8]

[Q] Qualified release due to high sampling variability.

Public Opinion About Alcohol and Illicit Drug Abuse

Alberta public opinion regarding the seriousness of alcohol and illicit drug abuse, alcohol and drug policy options and initiatives, government actions to reduce use and consequences, and ease of access to drugs strongly influences policy formation. This section presents Alberta results on selected CAS questions regarding public opinion on alcohol and illicit drug abuse.

What is public opinion about the seriousness of alcohol abuse and illicit drug abuse in Canada, Alberta and community?

As shown in Figures 15 and 16, Albertans generally viewed alcohol abuse and illicit drug abuse as serious issues. Over three-quarters of respondents viewed alcohol abuse and illicit drug abuse as serious in Canada, in Alberta and in their own community.

FIGURE 15: Public Opinion of Albertans about the Seriousness of Alcohol Abuse in Canada, Alberta, and Community

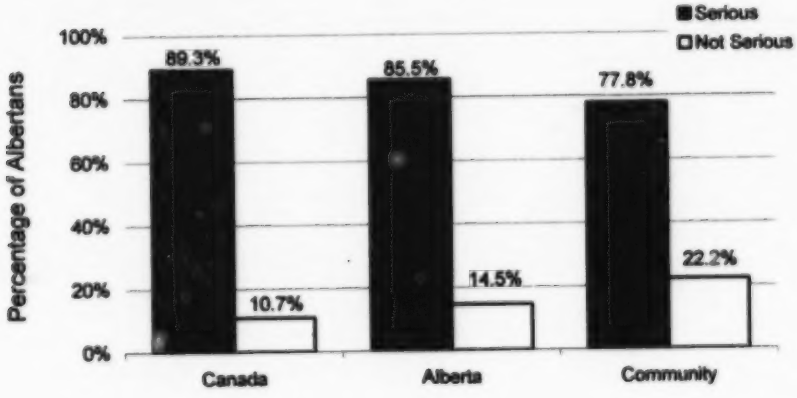
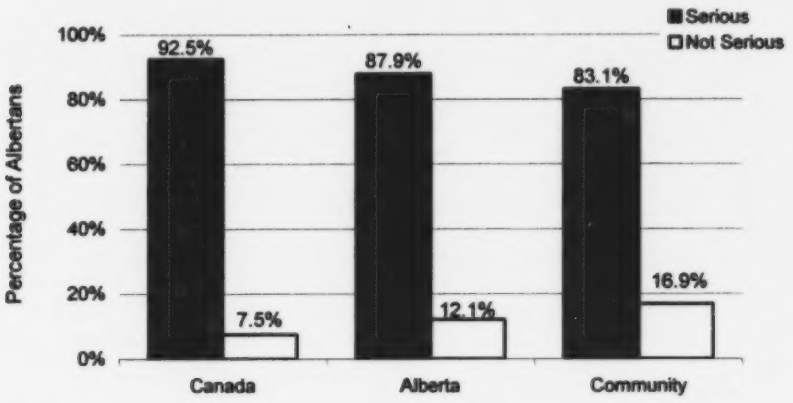


FIGURE 16: Public Opinion of Albertans about the Seriousness of Illicit Drug Abuse in Canada, Alberta, and Community



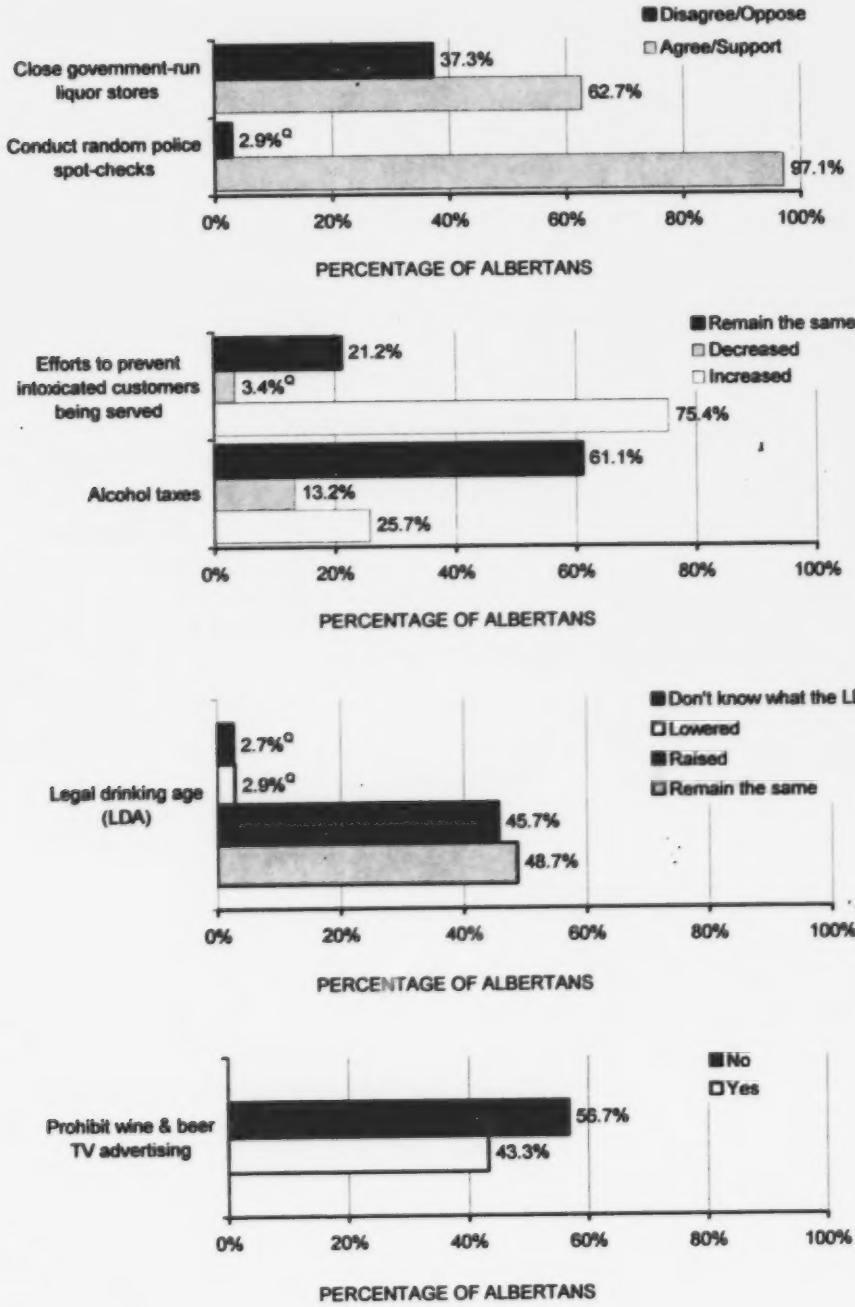
A closer examination of opinions on the seriousness of alcohol abuse (Table 35) shows that the majority of respondents rated alcohol abuse as "somewhat serious" in Canada, in Alberta, and in their own community. Considering just opinions about Alberta, females, older Albertans, and non-drinkers were more likely to view alcohol abuse as serious than were males, younger Albertans and those who drank alcohol in the past 12 months (Table 36). Similarly, females were more likely than males to view alcohol abuse as serious in their own community. Marital status, education, income, location of household and any illicit drug use in the past year were not related to opinions on the seriousness of alcohol abuse.

As for seriousness of illicit drug abuse, respondents were fairly evenly divided in their opinions on illicit drug abuse being "very serious" and "somewhat serious" in Canada and in Alberta (Table 35). The majority (51%) of respondents viewed illicit drug abuse as "somewhat serious" in their own community. In other words, it was not considered as serious in their own communities as in Canada or in Alberta as a whole, following the same pattern as can be seen in results for perceptions of seriousness of alcohol abuse. However, perceptions of "very serious" for illicit drug abuse were higher than perceptions of "very serious" for alcohol abuse.

Focusing on views about Alberta, females, those older and those with less education were more likely to view illicit drug abuse as serious (Table 36). In terms of respondents' own community, females and those living in urban areas were more likely to view illicit drug abuse as serious. Marital status, income, alcohol use and any illicit drug use in the past year were not related to opinions of seriousness of illicit drug abuse.

What is public opinion about alcohol policy options and initiatives?

FIGURE 17: Public Opinion of Albertans about Alcohol Policy Options and Initiatives



Q Qualified release due to high sampling variability

Respondents were asked about their opinions on various alcohol policy options and initiatives. The percentage of responses to six alcohol policy options and initiatives are presented in Figure 17 and Table 37. The survey question on government-run liquor stores was worded slightly differently for Alberta. Albertans were asked whether the government "was right" in closing all government-run liquor stores, reflecting the shift in policy to private sector retailing of alcohol implemented by the Alberta government in 1993–94. The other provinces were asked whether the government "should close" all government-run liquor stores. As shown in Figure 17, almost two-thirds (62.7%) of Albertans agreed that the provincial government was right in closing all government-run liquor stores and allowing privately run stores to sell alcohol. This is significantly higher than the national finding of 32.6% in favour of closing government-run liquor stores (Table 38).

As for the other policy options and initiatives (Figure 17), there was very strong support (97.1%) for random police spot-checks to catch drinking drivers and also strong support to increase efforts to prevent drunken customers from being served (75.4%). Just under two-thirds (61.1%) thought taxes on alcoholic beverages should remain the same; 25.7% favoured increasing taxes and 13.2% supported lowering taxes. Albertans were split about half and half between leaving the legal drinking age at 18 years (48.7%) or raising it (45.7%). Three per cent thought the legal drinking age should be lowered. Respondents were also split on TV alcohol advertising with over half (56.7%) saying not to prohibit advertising and just under half (43.3%) reporting that government should prohibit wine, liquor and beer advertising on TV.

The data on these alcohol policy options and initiatives were also examined in terms of respondents' demographic characteristics (Table 39). Opinions about alcohol taxes were related to sex and alcohol use. The majority of males and females thought taxes should remain the same. However, almost one-third of females thought alcohol taxes should be increased compared with only one-fifth of males. Not surprisingly, drinkers were more likely to indicate that alcohol taxes should remain the same.

Opinions about the legal drinking age were related to sex, age and alcohol use (Table 39). Compared with males and drinkers, females and non-drinkers were more likely to think the legal drinking age should be raised. Also, as age increased there was more support for raising the legal drinking age.

Regarding efforts to prevent drunken customers from being served, only two variables were significantly related: alcohol use and any illicit drug use in the past 12 months (Table 39). The majority of alcohol users and non-users thought efforts should be increased, but more alcohol users than non-alcohol users thought efforts should remain the same. As well, respondents not using any illicit drugs in the past year thought efforts should be increased.

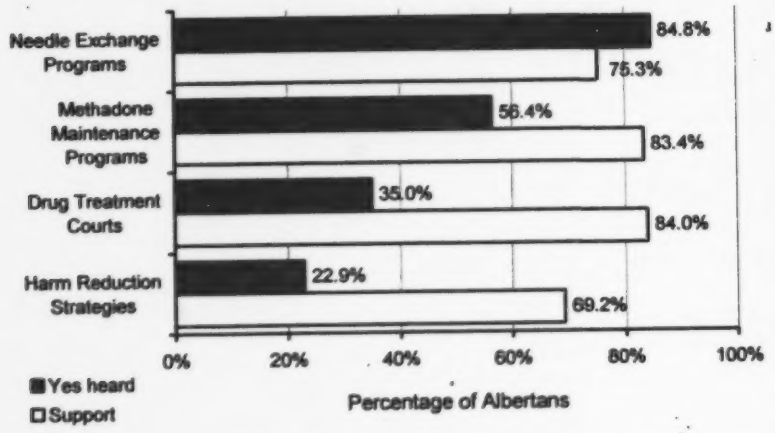
Views about prohibiting wine and beer advertising on television were related to sex, age, education and alcohol use (Table 39). That is, respondents who were female, older, had more education and were non-drinkers were more likely to agree to prohibit wine and beer advertising on television.

Opinions about whether the government's closure of all government-run liquor stores in favour of private retailing of alcohol was related to sex, age and use of alcohol in the past 12 months (Table 39). Males, younger respondents and drinkers were more likely to agree with this government policy option.

Lastly, sex was the only demographic characteristic related to opinions about random police spot-checks to catch drinking drivers (Table 39). Females were more likely than males to agree with such campaigns.

What is public opinion about drug (including cannabis) policy programs?

FIGURE 18: Public Opinion of Albertans about Drug Policy Options and Initiatives



The vast majority (80.4%) of respondents thought prevention and treatment are the best ways to address the drug issue in Canada versus about one-fifth (19.6%) who thought law enforcement and incarceration are the best approach (see Table 40). In particular, females, those with at least high school education or higher and those who had used one or more illicit drugs in the past year were more likely to choose a prevention and treatment approach versus a law enforcement approach.

Respondents were also asked about their views regarding certain drug policy programs, namely, drug treatment courts, harm reduction strategies, needle exchange programs, and methadone maintenance programs. The best known strategy was needle exchange, with most (84.8%) reporting that they had heard about it (Figure 18). A definition of needle exchange was provided and about three-quarters of all respondents expressed support for needle exchange programs. As age and education level increased, respondents were more likely

to have heard of needle exchange programs (Table 40). Similarly, those who had used alcohol in the past 12 months were more likely than non-drinkers to have heard about needle exchange programs. In terms of support for needle exchange programs, four demographic characteristics were significant. Respondents who had more education, were female, reported an income level (versus don't know/refused) and had used any illicit drugs in the past year were more likely to support needle exchange programs.

Methadone maintenance programs were the next most known initiative with over half (56.4%) of respondents reporting that they had heard or read something about it. It also received very strong support (83.4%) among all respondents (defined when survey questions were asked, see Figure 18). In particular, respondents who were older, had a higher education level, reported an income (versus don't know/refused), or were separated/divorced or living common-law, were more likely to have heard of methadone maintenance (Table 40). Also, those with more education and drinkers were more likely to support methadone maintenance programs.

About one-third (35%) of Albertans had heard about drug treatment courts (defined when survey questions were asked) and the vast majority (84%) of all respondents supported the initiative (Figure 18). As education level increased, respondents were more likely to have heard of drug courts (Table 40). Also, as age increased, respondents were more likely to be in support of drug treatment court programs (excluding those aged 15 to 17 years because of high sampling variability).

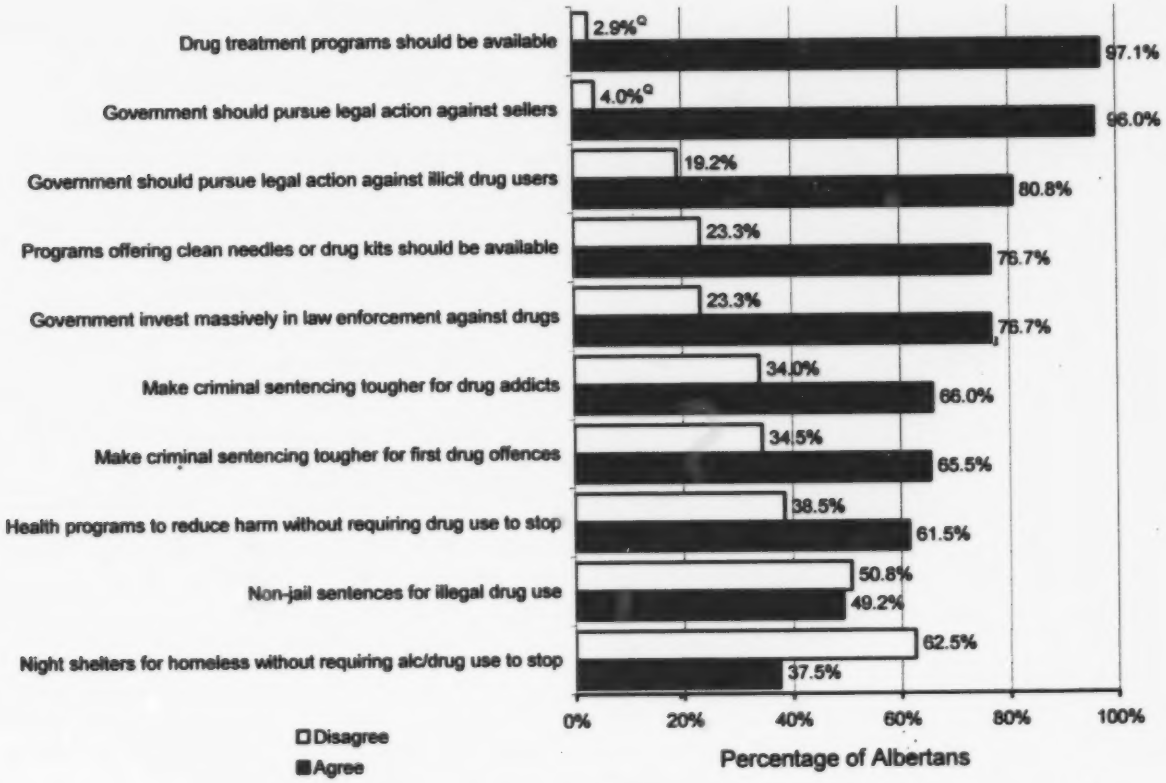
Finally, the least known option was harm reduction strategies (22.9%), though more than two-thirds (69.2%) of all respondents supported this option (defined when asking survey questions) (Figure 18). In terms of demographic characteristics, age and education were related to views on harm reduction strategies (Table 40). Adults aged 50 and over were more likely to have heard about harm reduction strategies than adults aged 18 to 49. As well, Albertans with a university degree were more likely to support harm reduction strategies than those with lower levels of education.

What is public opinion about government actions to reduce substance use and consequences?

Respondents were asked about their opinions regarding government actions meant to reduce the use and the consequences of alcohol and drugs in Canada. Interestingly, the results show support for drug treatment and harm reduction efforts, as well as a criminal approach or legal action. As shown in Figure 19, almost all Albertans agree drug treatment programs should be available (97.1%). There is also very strong agreement for government pursuing legal action against sellers of illicit drugs (96%) and to a slightly lesser extent (81%) against illicit drug users. In terms of harm reduction, there is substantial agreement for programs offering clean needles or drug kits (76.7%) and health

programs to reduce harm without requiring illicit drug users to stop (61.5%). However, as shown in Table 41, the level of agreement shifts from strongly agree to somewhat agree. There is considerable disagreement with providing night shelters for people who are homeless without requiring that alcohol and illicit drug use stop (62.5%).

FIGURE 19: Public Opinion of Albertans about Government Actions to Reduce Use and Consequences of Illicit Drug Abuse



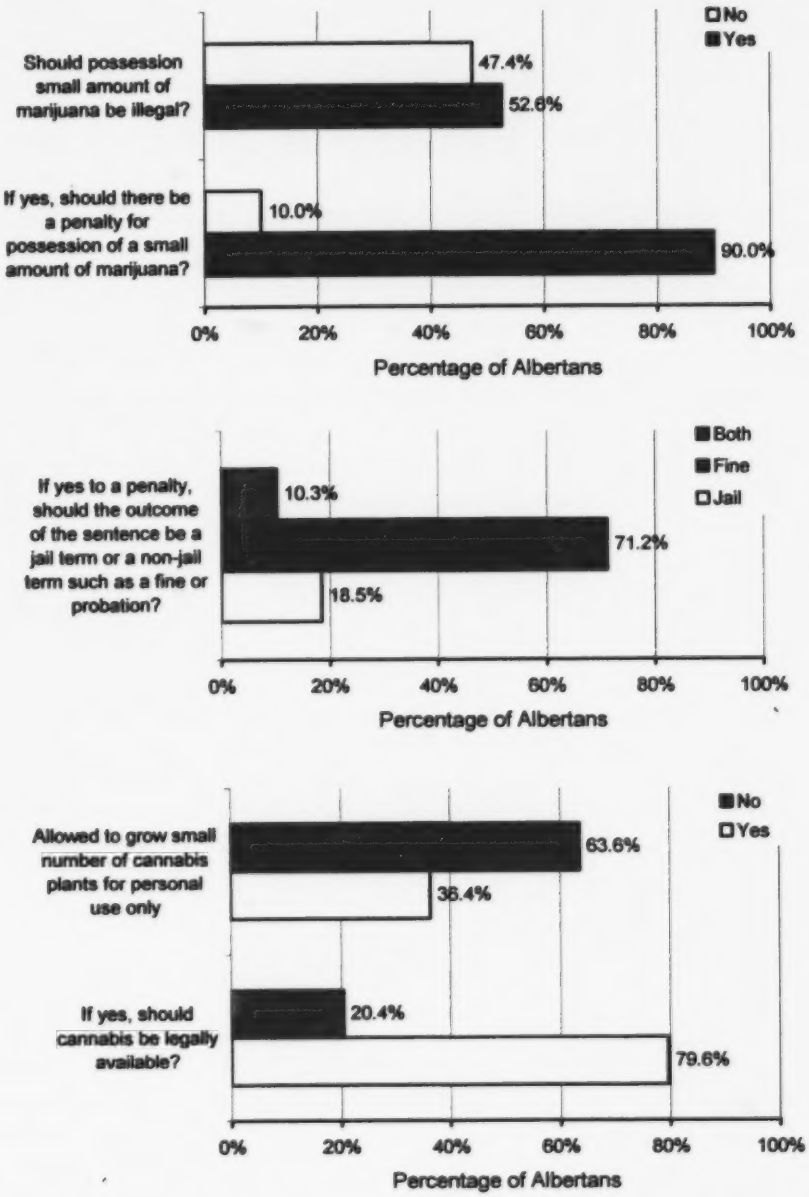
Q Qualified release due to high sampling variability.

What is public opinion about cannabis issues and policy options?

As shown in Figure 20 and Table 42, Albertans were asked about their opinions regarding cannabis availability options. They were almost evenly divided on the question of whether possessing small amounts of cannabis should be illegal, with those favouring keeping it illegal (52.6%) being a bit higher than those indicating it should not be illegal (47.4%). Sex, education, income, and use of alcohol or illicit drugs in the past year were related to opinions on this question (Table 43). Females, those completing secondary school (i.e., high school), and non-users of alcohol and illicit drugs, were more likely to agree that possession

of small amounts of marijuana should be illegal. Those at income levels other than middle income also were more likely to agree that possession of small amounts of marijuana should be illegal.

FIGURE 20: Public Opinion of Albertans about Cannabis Availability Options

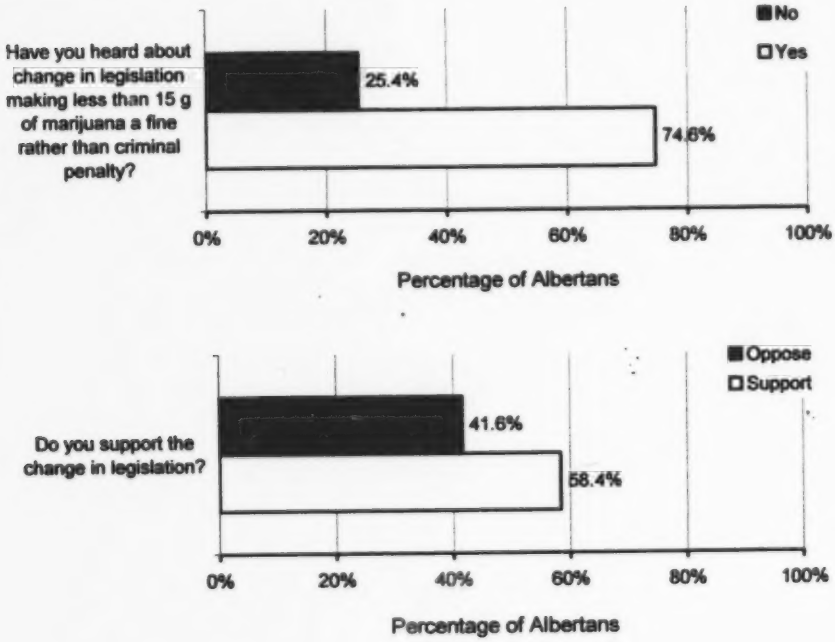


Of Albertans indicating that possession of a small amount of marijuana should be illegal, the vast majority (90%) thought there should be a penalty (Figure 20). Respondents who were single or living in a common-law relationship were

somewhat less likely to think there should be a penalty (Table 43). On the other hand, non-users of alcohol and any illicit drugs thought there should be a penalty for possession of a small amount of cannabis. Of those indicating there should be a penalty, most (71.2%) thought the outcome should be a fine instead of jail (18.5%) or both (10.3%) (Figure 20).

Almost two-thirds (63.6%) of respondents thought that people should not be allowed to grow a small number of cannabis plants for their own personal use (Figure 20). Of those supporting growing cannabis for personal use, most (79.6%) thought it should be legally available. In terms of the demographic characteristics, females were more likely to hold the position that a person should not be allowed to grow cannabis for personal use (Table 43). In contrast, alcohol users and illicit drug users were more likely to indicate that a person should be allowed to grow a small amount of cannabis for personal use. Of those agreeing with being able to grow cannabis for personal use, males and those with higher education were more likely to think cannabis should be legally available.

FIGURE 21: Public Opinion of Albertans about the Legal Status of Cannabis



In 2003, the Government of Canada considered legislation to change the penalty for possession of 15 grams or less of cannabis from a criminal sanction to a fine only. As shown in Figure 21 and Table 44, awareness of this change was high in Alberta with three-quarters (74.6%) of respondents reporting that

they had heard about it. Among all respondents, over half of Albertans (58.4%) indicated that they supported such a change in legislation.

In terms of demographic characteristics, males, those with a higher education, and illicit drug users were more likely to have heard of the legislation (Table 45). As well, males, alcohol users and illicit drug users were more likely to support the change in legislation. In contrast, married or widowed respondents were less likely to support the change.

What is public opinion regarding ease of access to illicit drugs?

The majority of Albertans reported that illicit drugs, with the exception of heroin, would be fairly or very easy to obtain (Table 46). Cannabis was rated to be the most accessible with just over half (53.5%) of Albertans reporting it would be "very easy" to obtain and another 29% reporting it would be fairly easy to obtain. More than half of Albertans reported that hallucinogens, ecstasy, cocaine/crack or speed would be fairly or very easy to obtain, about one-third reported these substances would be fairly or very difficult to obtain, and around 10% reported them as probably impossible to obtain. Heroin was rated as the least accessible with 12.5% reporting that it would probably be impossible to obtain it, 23.2% saying it would be very difficult to obtain and 25.8% saying it would be fairly difficult to obtain.

The accessibility categories were combined into "easy" versus "difficult" to analyze demographic differences in opinions on the ease of access to illicit drugs. Demographic differences only existed when it came to the ease of access to cannabis and cocaine; the different demographic groups rated access to other drugs the same. For both cannabis and cocaine, respondents who had used the drug during the past year were far more likely to report that the drug would be easy to find than those who had not used the drug in the past year and those in rural settings were more likely than those in urban settings to say that getting the drugs would be easy (Table 47).

TABLE 35: Public Opinion about the Seriousness of Alcohol Abuse and Illicit Drug Abuse in Canada, Alberta, and Community

Seriousness	In Canada % [95% CI]	In Alberta % [95% CI]	In Community % [95% CI]
Alcohol Abuse			
Very serious	28.8 [25.7-32.1]	26.6 [23.6-29.8]	20.9 [18.2-23.9]
Somewhat serious	60.5 [57.0-63.9]	58.9 [55.3-62.4]	56.9 [53.3-60.5]
Somewhat not serious	9.5 [7.6-11.8]	12.0 [9.9-14.5]	16.0 [13.5-18.9]
Not at all serious	1.2[Q] [0.7-2.3]	2.5[Q] [1.6-3.8]	6.2 [4.6-8.2]
Illicit Drug Abuse			
Very serious	47.3 [43.8-50.9]	42.8 [39.2-46.4]	32.1 [28.8-35.6]
Somewhat serious	45.1 [41.6-48.7]	45.1 [41.5-48.7]	51.0 [47.4-54.6]
Somewhat not serious	6.6 [5.0-8.5]	10.2 [8.3-12.6]	12.9 [10.6-15.6]
Not at all serious	S	1.9[Q] [1.1-3.2]	4.0[Q] [2.7-5.8]

[Q] Qualified release due to high sampling variability.
S Estimate suppressed due to unacceptable high sampling variability.

TABLE 36: Public Opinion about the Seriousness of Alcohol Abuse and Illicit Drug Abuse in Alberta, and Community, by Demographic Characteristics

	Seriousness of Alcohol Abuse in Alberta		Seriousness of Alcohol Abuse in Your City/Town		Seriousness of Illicit Drug Abuse in Alberta		Seriousness of Illicit Drug Abuse in Your City/Town	
	Serious % [95% CI]	Not serious % [95% CI]	Serious % [95% CI]	Not serious % [95% CI]	Serious % [95% CI]	Not serious % [95% CI]	Serious % [95% CI]	Not serious % [95% CI]
Total	85.5 [82.8-87.8]	14.5 [12.2-17.2]	77.8 [74.6-80.7]	22.2 [19.3-25.4]	87.9 [85.3-90.0]	12.1 [10.0-14.7]	83.1 [80.1-85.7]	16.9 [14.3-19.9]
Sex	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Female	92.5 [89.8-94.5]	7.5 [5.5-10.2]	83.5 [79.5-86.8]	16.5 [13.2-20.5]	93.2 [90.6-95.2]	6.8[Q] [4.8-9.4]	88.7 [85.3-91.4]	11.3 [8.6-14.7]
Male	78.0 [73.3-82.1]	22.0 [17.9-26.7]	72.2 [67.2-76.7]	27.8 [23.3-32.8]	82.1 [77.6-85.9]	17.9 [14.1-22.4]	77.3 [72.5-81.6]	22.7 [18.4-27.5]
Age Group	*	*	NS	NS	*	*	NS	NS
15-17	89.5 [76.1-95.8]	S	66.6 [49.2-80.4]	33.4[Q] [19.6-50.8]	92.1 [79.2-97.3]	S	76.1 [58.7-87.7]	23.9[Q] [12.3-41.3]
18-29	79.7 [73.2-84.9]	20.3 [15.1-26.8]	74.7 [67.9-80.4]	25.3 [19.6-32.1]	82.4 [76.2-87.3]	17.6 [12.7-23.8]	83.1 [77.1-87.9]	16.9 [12.1-22.9]
30-49	83.0 [78.2-86.9]	17.0 [13.1-21.8]	80.6 [75.8-84.6]	19.4 [15.4-24.2]	85.3 [80.6-89.0]	14.7 [11.0-19.4]	83.5 [78.9-87.2]	16.5 [12.8-21.1]
50+	91.6 [87.7-94.3]	8.4[Q] [5.7-12.3]	78.3 [71.9-83.6]	21.7 [16.4-28.1]	94.1 [90.5-96.3]	5.9[Q] [3.7-9.5]	83.6 [77.5-88.3]	16.4[Q] [11.7-22.5]
Marital Status	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
Married or Widowed	87.8 [84.4-90.6]	12.2 [9.4-15.6]	78.7 [74.3-82.6]	21.3 [17.4-25.7]	91.0 [87.8-93.4]	9.0 [6.6-12.2]	85.5 [81.6-88.7]	14.5 [11.3-18.4]
Common-Law	82.7 [69.9-90.7]	17.3[Q] [9.3-30.1]	79.7 [68.5-87.6]	20.3[Q] [12.4-31.5]	89.9 [78.3-95.6]	S	77.8 [66.3-86.3]	22.2[Q] [13.7-33.7]
Separated or Divorced	90.2 [80.3-95.4]	S	75.2 [61.9-85.0]	24.8[Q] [15.0-38.1]	90.6 [81.1-95.6]	S	76.1 [62.3-86.0]	23.9[Q] [14.0-37.7]
Single	80.3 [74.6-84.9]	19.7 [15.1-25.4]	76.1 [69.9-81.4]	23.9 [18.6-30.1]	80.9 [75.3-85.6]	19.1 [14.4-24.7]	81.8 [76.0-86.4]	18.2 [13.6-24.0]
Education	NS	NS	NS	NS	*	*	NS	NS
Less than secondary	86.5 [78.8-91.7]	13.5[Q] [8.3-21.2]	76.7 [66.5-84.4]	23.3[Q] [15.6-33.5]	89.8 [82.0-94.5]	10.2[Q] [5.5-18.0]	80.4 [69.4-88.0]	19.6[Q] [12.0-30.6]
Secondary	85.1 [79.7-89.3]	14.9 [10.7-20.3]	79.6 [73.5-84.6]	20.4 [15.4-26.5]	92.7 [88.3-95.5]	7.3[Q] [4.5-11.7]	84.4 [78.8-88.8]	15.6 [11.2-21.2]
Some post-secondary	84.5 [79.6-88.3]	15.5 [11.7-20.4]	78.0 [72.3-82.7]	22.0 [17.3-27.7]	85.7 [80.9-89.5]	14.3 [10.5-19.1]	84.7 [79.9-88.6]	15.3 [11.4-20.1]
University degree	86.3 [80.4-90.7]	13.7[Q] [9.3-19.6]	76.8 [69.9-82.4]	23.2 [17.6-30.1]	83.7 [77.4-88.5]	16.3[Q] [11.5-22.6]	80.2 [73.6-85.6]	19.8 [14.4-26.4]

TABLE 36 continued on the next page

TABLE 36: continued. Public Opinion about the Seriousness of Alcohol Abuse and Illicit Drug Abuse in Alberta, and Community, by Demographic Characteristics

	Seriousness of Alcohol Abuse in Alberta		Seriousness of Alcohol Abuse in Your City/Town		Seriousness of Illicit Drug Abuse in Alberta		Seriousness of Illicit Drug Abuse in Your City/Town	
	Serious % [95% CI]	Not serious % [95% CI]	Serious % [95% CI]	Not serious % [95% CI]	Serious % [95% CI]	Not serious % [95% CI]	Serious % [95% CI]	Not serious % [95% CI]
Income	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
Low	82.4 [71.8-89.6]	17.6^{Q} [10.4-28.2]	82.7 [69.6-90.9]	17.3^{Q} [9.1-30.4]	84.4 [73.7-91.2]	15.6^{Q} [8.8-26.3]	81.9 [68.3-90.5]	18.1^{Q} [9.5-31.7]
Middle	88.6 [84.2-91.8]	11.4^{Q} [8.2-15.8]	82.4 [77.4-86.5]	17.6 [13.5-22.6]	89.9 [85.6-93.0]	10.1^{Q} [7.0-14.4]	84.4 [79.7-88.2]	15.6 [11.8-20.3]
High	82.1 [76.7-86.4]	17.9 [13.6-23.3]	71.2 [65.1-76.6]	28.8 [23.4-34.9]	86.0 [80.9-89.9]	14.0 [10.1-19.1]	80.5 [75.0-85.1]	19.5 [14.9-25.0]
DK/Refused	86.6 [81.0-90.8]	13.4^{Q} [9.2-19.0]	78.1 [71.0-83.8]	21.9 [16.2-29.0]	88.7 [83.2-92.5]	11.3^{Q} [7.5-16.8]	84.6 [77.8-89.6]	15.4^{Q} [10.4-22.2]
Location of Household	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	*	*
Rural	85.3 [77.3-90.8]	14.7^{Q} [9.2-22.7]	70.2 [58.2-80.0]	29.8^{Q} [20.0-41.8]	86.7 [78.5-92.1]	13.3^{Q} [7.9-21.5]	71.6 [59.2-81.5]	28.4^{Q} [18.5-40.8]
Urban	85.5 [82.6-88.0]	14.5 [12.0-17.4]	78.6 [75.3-81.6]	21.4 [18.4-24.7]	88.0 [85.3-90.3]	12.0 [9.7-14.7]	84.2 [81.2-86.8]	15.8 [13.2-18.8]
Use of Alcohol in the Past Year	*	*	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
No	94.4 [89.7-97.0]	5.6^{Q} [3.0-10.3]	76.9 [69.1-83.2]	23.1 [16.8-30.9]	91.2 [85.7-94.7]	8.8^{Q} [5.3-14.3]	82.6 [74.9-88.4]	17.4^{Q} [11.6-25.1]
Yes	83.0 [79.8-85.8]	17.0 [14.2-20.2]	78.0 [74.5-81.2]	22.0 [18.8-25.5]	86.9 [83.9-89.4]	13.1 [10.6-16.1]	83.2 [80.0-86.0]	16.8 [14.0-20.0]
Use of Any Dugs in the Past Year	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
No	86.8 [84.0-89.2]	13.2 [10.8-16.0]	79.0 [75.5-82.1]	21.0 [17.9-24.5]	89.5 [86.8-91.6]	10.5 [8.4-13.2	84.0 [80.8-86.7]	16.0 [13.3-19.2]
One or more	78.2 [70.0-84.6]	21.8^{Q} [15.4-30.0]	71.6 [62.7-79.1]	28.4 [20.9-37.3]	79.6 [71.5-85.8]	20.4^{Q} [14.2-28.5]	78.4 [70.1-85.0]	21.6^{Q} [15.0-29.9]

* Significant (p<=0.05).
NS Not significantly different (p<=0.05).
^{Q} Qualified release due to high sampling variability.
S Estimate suppressed due to unacceptable high sampling variability.

TABLE 37: Public Opinion of Albertans about Alcohol Policy Options and Initiatives

	Strongly agree % [95% CI]	Somewhat agree % [95% CI]	Somewhat disagree % [95% CI]	Strongly disagree % [95% CI]
The provincial government was right in closing all government-run liquor stores and allowing privately run stores to sell alcohol.	26.4 [23.2-29.8]	36.3 [32.8-39.9]	16.8 [14.2-19.7]	20.6 [17.8-23.5]
	Strongly support	*Somewhat support*	*Somewhat oppose*	*Strongly oppose*
Do you support random police spot-checks to catch drinking drivers?	87.8 [85.3-89.9]	9.3 [7.5-11.5]	S	1.8[Q] [1.1-3.0]
	Increased/Raised	*Decreased/Lowered*	*Remain the same*	
Do you think efforts to prevent drunken customers from being served should be increased, decreased, or remain the same?	75.4 [72.2-78.3]	3.4[Q] [2.3-5.1]	21.2 [18.5-24.3]	
Do you think taxes on alcoholic beverages should be increased, decreased, or remain the same?	25.7 [22.7-29.0]	13.2 [10.9-15.8]	61.1 [57.5-64.5]	
	Increased/Raised	*Decreased/Lowered*	*Remain the same*	*Don't know*
Do you think the legal drinking age should be raised, lowered or remain the same?	45.7 [42.2-49.2]	2.9[Q] [2.0-4.4]	48.7 [45.1-52.2]	2.7[Q] [1.5-4.9]
			Yes	*No*
Should the government prohibit wine, liquor and beer advertising on TV?			43.3 [39.8-46.9]	56.7 [53.1-60.2]

[Q] Qualified release due to high sampling variability.
S Estimate suppressed due to unacceptable high sampling variability.

TABLE 38: Public Opinion of Canadians on the Alcohol Policy Option of Government-Run Liquor Stores

	Canadians	
	Strongly or somewhat agree % [95% CI]	Strongly or somewhat disagree % [95% CI]
The provincial government should close all government-run liquor stores and allow privately run stores to sell alcohol.	32.6 [30.6-34.6]	67.4 [65.4-69.4]

TABLE 39: Public Opinion of Albertans about Alcohol Policy Options and Initiatives, by Demographic Characteristics

	Alcohol Taxes			Legal Drinking Age			Efforts to Prevent Drunks From Being Served		
	Increase % [95% CI]	Decrease % [95% CI]	Same % [95% CI]	Raised % [95% CI]	Lowered % [95% CI]	Same % [95% CI]	Raised % [95% CI]	Lowered % [95% CI]	Same % [95% CI]
Total	25.7 [22.7-29.0]	13.2 [10.9-15.8]	61.1 [57.5-64.5]	47.0 [43.4-50.5]	3.0^Q [2.0-4.5]	50.0 [46.5-53.6]	75.4 [72.2-78.3]	3.4^Q [2.3-5.1]	21.2 [18.5-24.3]
Sex	*	*	*	*	*	*	NS	NS	NS
Female	31.4 [27.0-36.2]	7.3^Q [5.1-10.4]	61.2 [56.3-65.9]	54.9 [50.2-59.6]	2.2^Q [1.1-4.1]	42.9 [38.3-47.6]	80.3 [76.2-83.9]	3.7^Q [2.1-6.3]	16.0 [12.8-19.8]
Male	19.9 [16.0-24.4]	19.2 [15.4-23.6]	61.0 [55.7-66.0]	38.8 [33.8-44.0]	3.9^Q [2.3-6.5]	57.3 [52.1-62.4]	70.2 [65.2-74.8]	3.2^Q [1.8-5.6]	26.6 [22.3-31.5]
Age Group	NS	NS	NS	*	*	*	NS	NS	NS
15-17	S	S	67.6 [50.4-81.1]	S	S	69.9 [52.5-83.0]	42.8^Q [27.3-59.8]	S	50.5^Q [34.1-66.9]
18-29	20.1 [15.0-26.3]	15.9^Q [11.3-21.9]	64.0 [57.0-70.5]	32.9 [26.7-39.7]	S	62.7 [55.8-69.2]	67.5 [60.6-73.7]	S	28.3 [22.4-35.0]
30-49	24.0 [19.7-28.9]	12.2 [8.9-16.4]	63.8 [58.5-68.9]	50.7 [45.4-56.1]	S	46.6 [41.3-52.0]	78.0 [73.1-82.2]	2.8^Q [1.5-5.2]	19.2 [15.2-23.9]
50+	33.7 [27.4-40.6]	12.3^Q [8.5-17.5]	54.0 [47.0-60.8]	58.3 [51.4-64.9]	S	41.4 [34.8-48.3]	82.9 [77.2-87.5]	S	14.0^Q [10.0-19.2]
Marital Status	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
Married or Widowed	30.7 [26.2-35.5]	9.5 [7.1-12.7]	59.8 [54.8-64.6]	53.3 [48.4-58.2]	S	44.8 [40.0-49.8]	80.0 [75.7-83.6]	3.6^Q [2.0-6.1]	16.5 [13.2-20.4]
Common-Law	16.9^Q [10-27.1]	24.8^Q [16-36.3]	58.3 [46.7-69.2]	47.0 [35.9-58.4]	S	49.4 [38.1-60.8]	66.6 [54.6-76.7]	S	31.9^Q [21.9-43.9]
Separated or Divorced	28.8^Q [19.0-41.1]	S	60.3 [48.1-71.4]	53.6 [41.7-65.1]	S	44.6 [33.3-56.6]	86.5 [76.0-92.8]	0.0	13.5^Q [7.2-24.0]
Single	18.7 [14.2-24.3]	16.9 [12.2-22.8]	64.4 [57.8-70.6]	33.4 [27.5-39.8]	4.9^Q [2.7-8.8]	61.7 [55.1-67.8]	67.0 [60.5-72.9]	4.3^Q [2.3-7.9]	28.7 [23.1-35.1]
Education	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
Less than secondary	22^Q [14.7-31.5]	22.5^Q [15.1-32.3]	55.5 [45.1-65.4]	42.8 [33.3-52.8]	S	52.7 [42.7-62.6]	72.0 [62.2-80.1]	S	22.8^Q [15.4-32.4]
Secondary	27.6 [21.8-34.1]	13.5^Q [9.6-18.7]	58.9 [52.1-65.5]	51.4 [44.7-58.2]	4.5^Q [2.4-8.1]	44.1 [37.5-51.0]	71.4 [64.8-77.2]	5.3^Q [2.7-10.0]	23.3 [18.1-29.5]
Some post-secondary	28.0 [22.8-33.8]	12.3^Q [8.8-17.0]	59.7 [53.5-65.5]	46.1 [40.2-52.1]	S	52.6 [46.6-58.5]	74.9 [69.3-79.8]	S	22.8 [18.1-28.3]
University degree	21.7 [16.5-28.0]	9.6^Q [5.9-15.4]	68.6 [61.6-74.9]	44.5 [37.7-51.6]	S	53.0 [45.9-59.9]	82.8 [76.8-87.5]	S	15.8^Q [11.3-21.7]

TABLE 39 continued on the next page

TABLE 39 continued. Public Opinion of Albertans about Alcohol Policy Options and Initiatives, by Demographic Characteristics

	Alcohol Taxes			Legal Drinking Age			Efforts to Prevent Drunks From Being Served		
	Increase % [95% CI]	Decrease % [95% CI]	Same % [95% CI]	Raised % [95% CI]	Lowered % [95% CI]	Same % [95% CI]	Raised % [95% CI]	Lowered % [95% CI]	Same % [95% CI]
Income	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
Low	30.9Q [19.9-44.6]	14.3Q [7.3-26.3]	54.8 [41.4-67.5]	59.3 [46.0-71.4]	S	37.6Q [25.9-51.0]	81.8 [69.4-89.9]	S	14.1Q [7.2-25.6]
Middle	24.1 [19.4-29.4]	15.3 [11.4-20.1]	60.7 [54.8-66.2]	45.0 [39.4-50.7]	3.8Q [2.1-6.7]	51.3 [45.6-57.0]	74.5 [69.0-79.3]	3.1Q [1.7-5.8]	22.4 [17.8-27.7]
High	23.0 [18.2-28.7]	9.2Q [6.2-13.6]	67.7 [61.6-73.3]	42.1 [36.1-48.5]	S	56.4 [50.0-62.5]	73.2 [67.2-78.5]	S	24.2 [19.2-30.0]
DK/Refused	30.6 [24.0-38.1]	14.7Q [10.3-20.6]	54.7 [47.2-62.0]	52.4 [45.1-59.5]	S	43.9 [36.8-51.2]	77.6 [71.0-83.0]	S	17.8 [13.0-23.7]
Location of Household	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
Rural	36.4 [26.5-47.6]	12.2Q [6.4-22.0]	51.4 [40.2-62.4]	60.5 [48.6-71.2]	S	35.9 [25.4-47.8]	84.8 [74.4-91.4]	0.0	15.2Q [8.6-25.6]
Urban	24.7 [21.6-28.2]	13.3 [10.9-16.1]	62.0 [58.3-65.6]	45.6 [41.9-49.3]	3.0Q [1.9-4.5]	51.4 [47.7-55.1]	74.5 [71.1-77.6]	3.7Q 2.5-5.5]	21.8 [18.9-25.0]
Use of Alcohol in the Past Year	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
No	50.0 [42.0-58.0]	10.9Q [6.8-17.0]	39.1 [31.6-47.2]	60.0 [51.8-67.6]	S	35.4 [28.0-43.5]	81.4 [74.6-86.7]	8.3Q [4.9-13.7]	10.3Q [6.5-16.0]
Yes	19.9 [16.9-23.3]	13.7 [11.2-16.7]	66.4 [62.5-70.1]	43.8 [39.9-47.7]	2.6Q [1.6-4.3]	53.6 [49.6-57.5]	73.8 [70.2-77.2]	2.2Q [1.2-4.0]	23.9 [20.7-27.5]
Use of Any Drugs in the Past Year	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	*	*	*
No	28.3 [24.9-32.0]	11.2 [8.9-13.9]	60.5 [56.6-64.3]	49.9 [46.1-53.8]	2.8Q [1.8-4.4]	47.2 [43.4-51.1]	79.3 [76.0-82.3]	3.0Q [1.9-4.8]	17.7 [14.9-20.8]
One or More	12.0Q [7.3-19.2]	23.9Q [17.0-32.5]	64.1 [55.0-72.3]	31.1 [23.5-39.8]	S	65.0 [56.1-73.0]	54.1 [45.1-62.8]	S	40.4 [31.9-49.4]

TABLE 39 continued on the next page

* Significant (p<=0.05).
NS Not significantly different (p<=0.05).
Q Qualified release due to high sampling variability.
S Estimate suppressed due to unacceptable high sampling variability.

TABLE 39 continued. Public Opinion of Albertans about Alcohol Policy Options and Initiatives, by Demographic Characteristics

	Prohibit Wine & Beer Advertising on TV		Right to Close Government-run Liquor Stores		Conduct Random Police Spot-checks	
	Yes % [95% CI]	No % [95% CI]	Agree % [95% CI]	Disagree % [95% CI]	Agree % [95% CI]	Disagree % [95% CI]
Total	43.3 [39.8-46.9]	56.7 [53.1-60.2]	62.7 [59.1-66.1]	37.3 [33.9-40.9]	97.1 [95.7-98.0]	2.9[Q] [2.0-4.3]
Sex	*	*	*	*	*	*
Female	53.6 [48.8-58.4]	46.4 [41.6-51.2]	56.4 [51.4-61.2]	43.6 [38.8-48.6]	99.2 [97.8-99.7]	S
Male	32.8 [28.0-38.0]	67.2 [62.0-72.0]	69.1 [63.9-73.8]	30.9 [26.2-36.1]	94.9 [92.2-96.7]	5.1[Q] [3.3-7.8]
Age Group	*	*	*	*	NS	NS
15-17	S	79.6 [62.4-90.1]	66.5 [48.9-80.5]	33.5[Q] [19.5-51.1]	97.0 [82.9-99.5]	S
18-29	33.8 [27.5-40.6]	66.2 [59.4-72.5]	70.4 [63.4-76.6]	29.6 [23.4-36.6]	94.5 [90.1-97.0]	5.5[Q] [3.0-9.9]
30-49	45.2 [39.9-50.6]	54.8 [49.4-60.1]	62.6 [57.2-67.7]	37.4 [32.3-42.8]	98.0 [95.7-99.0]	S
50+	51.8 [44.9-58.6]	48.2 [41.4-55.1]	56.0 [49.0-62.8]	44.0 [37.2-51.0]	97.9 [95.4-99.0]	S
Marital Status	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
Married or Widowed	49.1 [44.2-54.1]	50.9 [45.9-55.8]	60.8 [55.7-65.6]	39.2 [34.4-44.3]	98.5 [96.9-99.3]	S
Common-Law	36.5 [26.4-48.0]	63.5 [52.0-73.6]	69.0 [57.7-78.5]	31.0[Q] [21.5-42.3]	95.1 [86.5-98.3]	S
Separated or Divorced	49.5 [37.5-61.5]	50.5 [38.5-62.5]	59.6 [47.6-70.6]	40.4 [29.4-52.4]	98.4 [90.5-99.8]	S
Single	32.9 [27.0-39.4]	67.1 [60.6-73.0]	64.9 [58.1-71.1]	35.1 [28.9-41.9]	95.0 [91.2-97.2]	5.0[Q] [2.8-8.8]
Education	*	*	NS	NS	NS	NS
Less than secondary	37.1 [27.9-47.3]	62.9 [52.7-72.1]	62.5 [52.3-71.6]	37.5 [28.4-47.7]	96.6 [91.3-98.7]	S
Secondary	46.0 [39.3-52.8]	54.0 [47.2-60.7]	62.8 [55.8-69.2]	37.2 [30.8-44.2]	97.2 [94.1-98.7]	S
Some post-secondary	39.4 [33.7-45.4]	60.6 [54.6-66.3]	63.3 [57.2-68.9]	36.7 [31.1-42.8]	95.9 [92.7-97.7]	4.1[Q] [2.3-7.3]
University degree	48.0 [41.0-55.2]	52.0 [44.8-59.0]	61.7 [54.5-68.5]	38.3 [31.5-45.5]	98.8 [95.7-99.7]	S

TABLE 39 continued on the next page

TABLE 39 continued. Public Opinion of Albertans about Alcohol Policy Options and Initiatives, by Demographic Characteristics

	Prohibit Wine & Beer Advertising on TV		Right to Close Government-run Liquor Stores		Conduct Random Police Spot-checks	
	Yes % [95% CI]	No % [95% CI]	Agree % [95% CI]	Disagree % [95% CI]	Agree % [95% CI]	Disagree % [95% CI]
Income	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
Low	56.8 [43.6-69.2]	43.2 [30.8-56.4]	50.5 [36.9-64.1]	49.5 [35.9-63.1]	96.8 [88.2-99.2]	S
Middle	43.9 [38.2-49.7]	56.1 [50.3-61.8]	61.8 [56.0-67.3]	38.2 [32.7-44.0]	98.0 [95.7-99.1]	S
High	36.9 [30.9-43.2]	63.1 [56.8-69.1]	70.6 [64.5-76.0]	29.4 [24.0-35.5]	96.2 [92.9-98.0]	3.8[Q] [2.0-7.1]
DK/Refused	46.7 [39.6-53.9]	53.3 [46.1-60.4]	57.1 [49.5-64.3]	42.9 [35.7-50.5]	96.8 [93.3-98.5]	S
Location of Household	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
Rural	43.9 [33.3-55.1]	56.1 [44.9-66.7]	52.2 [40.8-63.4]	47.8 [36.6-59.2]	98.4 [90.6-99.8]	S
Urban	43.3 [39.6-46.9]	56.7 [53.0-60.4]	63.6 [59.9-67.2]	36.4 [32.8-40.1]	97.0 [95.4-98.0]	3.0[Q] [2.0-4.6]
Use of Alcohol in the Past Year	*	*	*	*	NS	NS
No	68.2 [60.0-74.8]	31.8 [25.2-39.2]	48.1 [40.0-56.3]	51.9 [43.7-60.0]	97.4 [93.5-99.0]	S
Yes	36.8 [33.0-40.7]	63.2 [59.3-67.0]	66.3 [62.4-70.0]	33.7 [30.0-37.6]	97.0 [95.4-98.1]	3.0[Q] [1.9-4.6]
Use of Drugs in the Past Year	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
No	45.9 [42.0-49.7]	54.1 [50.3-58.0]	60.7 [56.8-64.5]	39.3 [35.5-43.2]	97.9 [96.6-98.7]	2.1[Q] [1.3-3.4]
One or more	29.5 [22.1-38.2]	70.5 [61.8-77.9]	73.3 [64.4-80.6]	26.7 [19.4-35.6]	92.4 [85.9-96.0]	7.6[Q] [4.0-14.1]

* Significant ($p<=0.05$).
NS Not significantly different ($p<=0.05$).
[Q] Qualified release due to high sampling variability.
S Estimate suppressed due to unacceptable high sampling variability.

TABLE 40: Public Opinion of Albertans about Drug Policy Options and Initiatives, by Demographic Characteristics

	The best way to address the Canadian drug problem is:		Have you heard about needle exchange programs?		Do you support needle exchange programs?	
	Prevention & treatment % [95% CI]	Law enforcement & incarceration % [95% CI]	Yes % [95% CI]	No % [95% CI]	Support % [95% CI]	Oppose % [95% CI]
Total	80.4 [77.4-83.1]	19.6 [16.9-22.6]	84.8 [82.1-87.2]	15.2 [12.8-17.9]	75.3 [72.0-78.4]	24.7 [21.6-28.0]
Sex	*	*	NS	NS	*	*
Female	84.3 [80.5-87.4]	15.7 [12.6-19.5]	84.1 [80.5-87.1]	15.9 [12.9-19.5]	76.7 [72.2-80.6]	23.3 [19.4-27.8]
Male	76.2 [71.1-80.5]	23.8 [19.5-28.9]	85.6 [81.4-89.0]	14.4 [11.0-18.6]	74.0 [69.0-78.4]	26.0 [21.6-31.0]
Age Group	NS	NS	*	*	NS	NS
15-17	73.6 [59.1-84.4]	26.4[Q] [15.6-40.9]	53.6 [36.8-69.5]	46.4[Q] [30.4-63.2]	78.7 [61.3-89.6]	S
18-29	80.0 [73.5-85.2]	20.0 [14.8-25.5]	73.3 [66.7-79.0]	26.7 [21.0-33.3]	72.5 [65.6-78.4]	27.5 [21.6-34.4]
30-49	82.4 [77.7-86.3]	17.6 [13.7-22.3]	90.8 [87.2-93.4]	9.2[Q] [6.6-12.8]	79.4 [74.7-83.5]	20.6 [16.5-25.3]
50+	79.7 [73.7-84.6]	20.3 [15.4-26.3]	90.0 [85.3-93.4]	10.0[Q] [6.6-14.7]	71.6 [64.7-77.6]	28.4 [22.4-35.3]
Marital Status	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
Married or Widowed	78.4 [74.0-82.3]	21.6 [17.7-26.0]	88.2 [84.7-91.0]	11.8 [9.0-15.3]	75.4 [70.8-79.5]	24.6 [20.5-29.2]
Common-Law	87.9 [77.8-93.7]	12.1[Q] [6.3-22.2]	79.9 [69.1-87.6]	20.1[Q] [12.4-30.9]	75.1 [63.5-84.0]	24.9[Q] [16.0-36.5]
Separated or Divorced	83.1 [72.2-90.3]	16.9[Q] [9.7-27.8]	90.7 [81.5-95.6]	S	71.6 [58.9-81.7]	28.4[Q] [18.3-41.1]
Single	81.2 [75.4-85.9]	18.8 [14.1-24.6]	78.7 [73.0-83.5]	21.3 [16.5-27.0]	76.6 [70.4-81.9]	23.4 [18.1-29.6]
Education	*	*	*	*	*	*
Less than secondary	71.7 [62.2-79.7]	28.3 [20.3-37.8]	65.6 [55.4-74.5]	34.4 [25.5-44.6]	66.7 [56.0-75.9]	33.3 [24.1-44.0]
Secondary	81.7 [76.0-86.3]	18.3 [13.7-24.0]	83.5 [78.3-87.6]	16.5 [12.4-21.7]	75.7 [69.3-81.1]	24.3 [18.9-30.7]
Some post-secondary	78.7 [73.0-83.4]	21.3 [16.6-27.0]	89.0 [84.5-92.3]	11.0[Q] [7.7-15.5]	73.4 [67.5-78.6]	26.6 [21.4-32.5]
University degree	86.7 [80.8-90.9]	13.3[Q] [9.1-19.2]	92.0 [87.4-95.0]	8.0[Q] [5.0-12.6]	82.8 [76.6-87.6]	17.2 [12.4-23.4]

TABLE 40 continued on the next page

TABLE 40: continued. Public Opinion of Albertans about Drug Policy Options and Initiatives, by Demographic Characteristics

	The best way to address the Canadian drug problem is:		Have you heard about needle exchange programs?		Do you support needle exchange programs?	
	Prevention & treatment % [95% CI]	Law enforcement & incarceration % [95% CI]	Yes % [95% CI]	No % [95% CI]	Support % [95% CI]	Oppose % [95% CI]
Income	NS	NS	NS	NS	*	*
Low	85.8 [76.2-91.9]	14.2[Q] [8.1-23.8]	85.6 [74.0-92.6]	14.4[Q] [7.4-26.0]	83.1 [70.9-90.8]	16.9[Q] [9.2-29.1]
Middle	79.4 [73.9-84.0]	20.6 [16.0-26.1]	85.5 [81.1-89.0]	14.5 [11.0-18.9]	77.7 [72.5-82.2]	22.3 [17.8-27.5]
High	83.1 [77.8-87.3]	16.9 [12.7-22.2]	90.0 [85.2-93.3]	10.0[Q] [6.7-14.8]	79.6 [73.9-84.2]	20.4 [15.8-26.1]
DK/Refused	76.5 [69.5-82.2]	23.5 [17.8-30.5]	77.6 [71.2-82.9]	22.4 [17.1-28.8]	64.4 [56.8-71.4]	35.6 [28.6-43.2]
Location of Household	NS	NS	NS	NS	*	*
Rural	81.9 [73.6-88.0]	18.1[Q] [12.0-26.4]	74.4 [62.5-83.5]	25.6[Q] [16.5-37.5]	63.9 [52.2-74.2]	36.1 [25.8-47.8]
Urban	80.2 [76.9-83.2]	19.8 [16.8-23.1]	85.8 [83.1-88.2]	14.2 [11.8-16.9]	76.4 [72.9-79.5]	23.6 [20.5-27.1]
Use of Alcohol in Past Year	NS	NS	*	*	NS	NS
No	75.9 [68.7-81.9]	24.1 [18.1-31.3]	77.2 [69.9-83.1]	22.8 [16.9-30.1]	68.1 [60.1-75.2]	31.9 [24.8-39.9]
Yes	82.0 [78.6-84.9]	18.0 [15.1-21.4]	86.7 [83.8-89.1]	13.3 [10.9-16.2]	77.1 [73.5-80.4]	22.9 [19.6-26.5]
Use of Any Drug in the Past Year	*	*	NS	NS	*	*
No	78.6 [75.2-81.7]	21.4 [18.3-24.8]	84.8 [81.9-87.3]	15.2 [12.7-18.1]	73.8 [70.1-77.1]	26.2 [22.9-29.9]
One or more	90.0 [83.5-94.1]	10.0[Q] [5.9-16.5]	84.7 [77.0-90.2]	15.3[Q] [9.8-23.0]	84.1 [76.1-89.8]	15.9[Q] [10.2-23.9]

TABLE 40 continued on the next page

* Significant ($p<=0.05$).
NS Not significantly different ($p<=0.05$).
[Q] Qualified release due to high sampling variability.
S Estimate suppressed due to unacceptable high sampling variability.

TABLE 40 continued. Public Opinion of Albertans about Drug Policy Options and Initiatives, by Demographic Characteristics

	Have you heard about methadone maintenance programs?		Do you support methadone maintenance programs?		Have you heard about drug treatment court programs?		Do you support drug treatment court programs?	
	Yes % [95% CI]	No % [95% CI]	Support % [95% CI]	Oppose % [95% CI]	Yes % [95% CI]	No % [95% CI]	Yes % [95% CI]	No % [95% CI]
Total	56.4 [52.9-59.9]	43.6 [40.1-47.1]	83.4 [80.6-86.0]	16.6 [14.0-19.4]	35.0 [31.7-38.5]	65.0 [61.5-68.3]	84.0 [81.2-86.4]	16.0 [13.6-18.8]
Sex	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
Female	54.4 [49.6-59.1]	45.6 [40.9-50.4]	82.0 [78.0-85.5]	18.0 [14.5-22.0]	32.0 [27.7-36.7]	68.0 [63.3-72.3]	82.0 [78.0-85.4]	18.0 [14.6-22.0]
Male	58.5 [53.2-63.6]	41.5 [36.4-46.8]	84.8 [80.6-88.3]	15.2 [11.7-19.4]	38.1 [33.2-43.4]	61.9 [56.6-66.8]	85.9 [81.8-89.2]	14.1 [10.8-18.2]
Age Group	*	*	NS	NS	*	*	NS	NS
15-17	30.8[Q] [17.5-48.4]	69.2 [51.6-82.5]	93.0 [77.2-98.1]	S	33.3[Q] [19.5-50.7]	66.7 [49.3-80.5]	92.9[Q] [76.9-98.1]	S
18-29	42.4 [35.6-49.4]	57.6 [50.6-64.4]	81.6 [75.2-86.6]	18.4 [13.4-24.8]	30.9 [24.8-37.8]	69.1 [62.2-75.2]	82.9 [76.8-87.6]	17.1 [12.4-23.2]
30-49	61.9 [56.6-66.9]	38.1 [33.1-43.4]	83.9 [79.4-87.5]	16.1 [12.5-20.6]	32.3 [27.5-37.5]	67.7 [62.5-72.5]	81.2 [76.6-85.1]	18.8 [14.9-23.4]
50+	63.6 [56.7-70.0]	36.4 [30.0-43.3]	82.8 [77.0-87.4]	17.2 [12.6-23.0]	41.8 [35.3-48.7]	58.2 [51.3-64.7]	87.3 [82.0-91.2]	12.7[Q] [8.8-18.0]
Marital Status	*	*	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
Married or Widowed	56.7 [51.8-61.5]	43.3 [38.5-48.2]	83.3 [79.2-86.8]	16.7 [13.2-20.8]	35.7 [31.1-40.6]	64.3 [59.4-68.9]	82.1 [78.0-85.6]	17.9 [14.4-22.0]
Common-Law	61.2 [49.5-71.7]	38.8 [28.3-50.5]	81.8 [71.1-89.2]	18.2[Q] [10.8-28.9]	31.6[Q] [21.7-43.4]	68.4 [56.6-78.3]	80.7 [69.9-88.3]	19.3[Q] [11.7-30.1]
Separated or Divorced	77.8 [66.8-85.9]	22.2[Q] [14.1-33.2]	91.0 [82.1-95.7]	S	32.9[Q] [22.9-44.7]	67.1 [55.3-77.1]	88.7 [78.7-94.4]	S
Single	48.9 [42.4-55.5]	51.1 [44.5-57.6]	82.7 [77.1-87.2]	17.3 [12.8-22.9]	34.9 [28.9-41.4]	65.1 [58.6-71.1]	86.6 [81.5-90.5]	13.4[Q] [9.5-18.5]
Education	*	*	*	*	*	*	NS	NS
Less than secondary	37.2 [28.2-47.2]	62.8 [52.8-71.8]	77.8 [68.1-85.2]	22.2[Q] [14.8-31.9]	28.4 [20.4-38.0]	71.6 [62.0-79.6]	84.0 [75.2-90.0]	16.0[Q] [10.0-24.8]
Secondary	46.9 [40.2-53.8]	53.1 [46.2-59.8]	79.1 [73.1-84.1]	20.9 [15.9-26.9]	31.1 [25.2-37.9]	68.9 [62.1-74.8]	83.5 [77.7-88.0]	16.5 [12.0-22.3]
Some post-secondary	59.2 [53.2-64.9]	40.8 [35.1-46.8]	82.4 [76.9-86.9]	17.6 [13.1-23.1]	35.5 [29.8-41.5]	64.5 [58.5-70.2]	83.4 [78.4-87.5]	16.6 [12.5-21.6]
University degree	74.4 [67.9-79.9]	25.6 [20.1-32.1]	92.7 [88.2-95.5]	7.3[Q] [4.5-11.8]	43.0 [36.2-50.1]	57.0 [49.9-63.8]	85.6 [80.0-89.8]	14.4[Q] [10.2-20.0]

TABLE 40 continued on the next page

TABLE 40 continued. Public Opinion of Albertans about Drug Policy Options and Initiatives, by Demographic Characteristics

	Have you heard about methadone maintenance programs?		Do you support methadone maintenance programs?		Have you heard about drug treatment court programs?		Do you support drug treatment court programs?	
	Yes % [95% CI]	No % [95% CI]	Support % [95% CI]	Oppose % [95% CI]	Yes % [95% CI]	No % [95% CI]	Yes % [95% CI]	No % [95% CI]
Income	*	*	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
Low	65.4 [52.4-76.5]	34.6[Q] [23.5-47.6]	81.3 [68.4-89.7]	18.7[Q] [10.3-31.6]	44.6 [32.3-57.7]	55.4 [42.3-67.7]	83.5 [71.3-91.1]	16.5[Q] [8.9-28.7]
Middle	55.5 [49.7-61.1]	44.5 [38.9-50.3]	85.5 [80.7-89.2]	14.5 [10.8-19.3]	32.3 [27.0-38.2]	67.7 [61.8-73.0]	85.0 [80.5-88.6]	15.0 [11.4-19.5]
High	65.0 [58.7-70.8]	35.0 [29.2-41.3]	83.9 [78.6-88.1]	16.1 [11.9-21.4]	38.6 [32.6-45.0]	61.4 [55.0-67.4]	85.6 [80.6-89.5]	14.4 [10.5-19.4]
DK/Refused	45.4 [38.4-52.7]	54.6 [47.3-61.6]	80.0 [73.5-85.3]	20.0 [14.7-26.5]	32.3 [26.0-39.2]	67.7 [60.8-74.0]	80.3 [73.6-85.6]	19.7 [14.4-26.4]
Location of Household	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
Rural	41.0 [30.6-52.3]	59.0 [47.7-69.4]	76.3 [64.6-85.0]	23.7[Q] [15.0-35.4]	27.1[Q] [18.6-37.7]	72.9 [62.3-81.4]	85.3 [75.1-91.8]	14.7[Q] [8.2-24.9]
Urban	57.9 [54.2-61.5]	42.1 [38.5-45.8]	84.1 [81.1-86.7]	15.9 [13.3-18.9]	35.8 [32.3-39.5]	64.2 [60.5-67.7]	83.8 [80.9-86.4]	16.2 [13.6-19.1]
Use of Alcohol in the Past Year	NS	NS	*	*	NS	NS	NS	NS
None	51.8 [44.0-59.6]	48.2 [40.4-56.0]	74.8 [67.3-81.1]	25.2 [18.9-32.7]	29.3 [22.6-37.1]	70.7 [62.9-77.4]	80.0 [73.0-85.5]	20.0 [14.5-27.0]
Once or more	57.7 [53.7-61.6]	42.3 [38.4-46.3]	85.6 [82.4-88.2]	14.4 [11.8-17.6]	36.5 [32.7-40.4]	63.5 [59.6-67.3]	84.9 [81.8-87.6]	15.1 [12.4-18.2]
Use of Any Drugs in the Past Year	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
No	56.8 [52.9-60.6]	43.2 [39.4-47.1]	83.2 [80.1-86.0]	16.8 [14.0-19.9]	35.1 [31.5-38.9]	64.9 [61.1-68.5]	83.3 [80.2-86.0]	16.7 [14.0-19.8]
One or more	54.5 [45.5-63.3]	45.5 [36.7-54.5]	84.4 [76.5-90.0]	15.6[Q] [10.0-23.5]	34.7 [26.7-43.6]	65.3 [56.4-73.3]	87.2 [79.2-92.2]	12.8[Q] [7.8-20.3]

TABLE 40 continued on the next page

* Significant (p<=0.05).

NS Not significantly different (p<=0.05).

[Q] Qualified release due to high sampling variability.

S Estimate suppressed due to unacceptable high sampling variability.

TABLE 40 continued. Public Opinion of Albertans about Drug Policy Options and Initiatives, by Demographics Characteristics

	Have you heard about harm reduction strategies?		Do you support harm reduction strategies?	
	Yes % [95% CI]	No % [95% CI]	Support % [95% CI]	Oppose % [95% CI]
Total	22.9 [20.0-26.0]	77.1 [74.0-80.0]	69.2 [65.5-72.7]	30.8 [27.3-34.5]
Sex	NS	NS	NS	NS
Female	19.4 [15.7-23.6]	80.6 [76.4-84.3]	67.0 [61.8-71.8]	33.0 [28.2-38.2]
Male	26.5 [22.2-31.3]	73.5 [68.7-77.8]	71.4 [66.0-76.3]	28.6 [23.7-71.8]
Age Group	*	*	NS	NS
15-17	27.8[Q] [15.2-45.4]	72.2 [54.6-84.8]	83.9 [67.5-92.9]	S
18-29	19.3 [14.3-25.5]	80.7 [74.5-85.7]	68.1 [60.8-74.6]	31.9 [25.4-39.2]
30-49	21.0 [17.0-25.8]	79.0 [74.2-83.0]	69.5 [63.9-74.5]	30.5 [25.5-36.1]
50+	27.2 [21.6-33.8]	72.8 [66.2-78.4]	67.2 [59.5-74.2]	32.8 [25.8-40.5]
Marital Status	NS	NS	NS	NS
Married or Widowed	22.5 [18.6-27.0]	77.5 [73.0-81.4]	64.6 [59.2-69.6]	35.4 [30.4-40.8]
Common-Law	30.8[Q] [21.0-42.6]	69.2 [57.4-79.0]	70.8 [58.7-80.5]	29.2[Q] [19.5-41.3]
Separated or Divorced	17.5[Q] [10.2-28.5]	82.5 [71.5-89.8]	75.5 [61.9-85.3]	24.5[Q] [14.7-38.1]
Single	22.3 [17.4-28.2]	77.7 [71.8-82.6]	75.8 [69.3-81.3]	24.2 [18.7-30.7]
Education	NS	NS	*	*
Less than secondary	12.6[Q] [7.3-20.9]	87.4 [79.1-92.7]	67.3 [56.7-76.4]	32.7 [23.6-43.3]
Secondary	19.2 [14.4-25.1]	80.8 [74.9-85.6]	65.3 [57.8-72.1]	34.7 [27.9-42.2]
Some post-secondary	27.6 [22.4-33.6]	72.4 [66.4-77.6]	67.2 [60.7-73.1]	32.8 [26.9-39.3]
University degree	25.6 [20.0-32.1]	74.4 [67.9-80.0]	78.1 [71.3-83.6]	21.9 [16.4-28.7]

TABLE 40 continued on the next page

TABLE 40 continued. Public Opinion of Albertans about Drug Policy Options and Initiatives, by Demographics Characteristics

	Have you heard about harm reduction strategies?		Do you support harm reduction strategies?	
	Yes % [95% CI]	No % [95% CI]	Support % [95% CI]	Oppose % [95% CI]
Income	NS	NS	NS	NS
Low	22.7[Q] [13.4-35.8]	77.3 [64.2-86.6]	75.7 [61.5-85.9]	24.3[Q] [14.1-38.5]
Middle	20.8 [16.3-26.3]	79.2 [73.7-83.7]	66.8 [60.8-72.4]	33.2 [27.6-39.2]
High	30.7 [25.2-36.8]	69.3 [63.2-74.8]	70.1 [63.5-76.0]	29.9 [24.0-36.5]
DK/Refused	16.6 [12.0-22.5]	83.4 [77.5-88.0]	70.0 [61.8-77.0]	30.0 [23.0-38.2]
Location of Household	NS	NS	NS	NS
Rural	16.0[Q] [9.4-25.7]	84.0 [74.3-90.6]	63.7 [51.5-74.3]	36.3 [25.7-48.5]
Urban	23.5 [20.5-26.9]	76.5 [73.1-79.5]	69.7 [65.8-73.3]	30.3 [26.7-34.2]
Use of Alcohol in the Past Year	NS	NS	NS	NS
None	22.4 [16.5-29.8]	77.6 [70.2-83.5]	61.8 [53.1-69.7]	38.2 [30.3-46.9]
Once or more	23.0 [19.8-26.6]	77.0 [73.4-80.2]	71.2 [67.1-74.9]	28.8 [25.1-32.9]
Use of Any Drugs in the Past Year	NS	NS	NS	NS
No	22.5 [19.4-26.0]	77.5 [74.0-80.6]	67.1 [63.1-71.0]	32.9 [29.0-36.9]
One or more	24.8 [17.9-33.3]	75.2 [66.7-82.1]	80.5 [71.8-87.0]	19.5[Q] [13.0-28.2]

* Significant (p<=0.05).
NS Not significantly different (p<=0.05).
Q Qualified release due to high sampling variability.
S Estimate suppressed due to unacceptable high sampling variability.

TABLE 41: Public Opinion of Albertans about Government Actions to Reduce Use and Consequences of Illicit Drug Abuse

	Strongly agree % [95% CI]	Somewhat agree % [95% CI]	Somewhat disagree % [95% CI]	Strongly disagree % [95% CI]
Drug treatment program should be available to help drug addicts reduce or stop their consumption of illicit drugs	82.8 [79.9-85.3]	14.3 [12.1-16.9]	1.3[Q] [0.7-2.4]	S
The government should vigorously pursue legal action against people who sell illicit drugs	81.4 [78.5-83.9]	14.6 [12.4-17.2]	2.4[Q] [1.5-3.8]	1.6[Q] [0.9-2.8]
The government should vigorously pursue legal action against users of illicit drugs	47.7 [44.2-51.2]	33.1 [29.9-36.5]	12.1 [10.0-14.6]	7.1 [5.5-9.2]
Programs that offer clean needles or drug kits should be available to drug users to avoid the spread of infectious disease	47.8 [44.3-51.4]	28.9 [25.8-32.1]	7.5 [5.9-9.5]	15.8 [13.3-18.7]
The government should invest massively in law enforcement against drugs	43.1 [39.6-46.6]	33.6 [30.4-37.0]	13.5 [11.3-16.1]	9.8 [7.9-12.2]
The government should make criminal sentencing tougher for the drug addicts	33.6 [30.4-37.0]	32.4 [29.2-35.8]	21.9 [19.1-24.9]	12.1 [10.0-14.6]
The government should make criminal sentencing tougher for the first drug offences	36.6 [33.3-40.0]	29.0 [25.8-32.3]	20.0 [17.3-23.0]	14.5 [12.2-17.2]
Health programs aimed to reduce the harm from drug use should be available to drug users without requiring clients to stop using drugs	29.8 [26.7-33.2]	31.7 [28.5-35.1]	16.5 [14.0-19.3]	21.9 [19.1-25.1]
Non-jail sentences should be allowed for illegal drug use	20.8 [17.9-23.9]	28.5 [25.4-31.8]	18.6 [15.9-21.6]	32.2 [28.9-35.7]
Night shelters should be available for the homeless where they do not have to give up their alcohol or drugs	12.6 [10.4-15.2]	24.9 [21.9-28.1]	24.0 [21.2-27.1]	38.5 [35.1-41.9]

[Q] Qualified release due to high sampling variability.
S Estimate suppressed due to unacceptable high sampling variability.

TABLE 42: Public Opinion of Albertans about Cannabis Policy

	Yes % [95% CI]	No % [95% CI]	
Should possession of small amounts of marijuana be against the law?	52.6 [49.0-56.1]	47.4 [43.9-51.0]	
If yes, should there be a penalty for possession of small amounts of marijuana?	90.0 [86.4-92.8]	10.0 [7.2-13.6]	
	Jail	*Fine or Probation*	*Both*
If yes to a penalty, should the outcome of the sentence be a jail term or non-jail term such as a fine or probation?	18.5 [14.7-23.1]	71.2 [66.2-75.8]	10.3 [7.5-13.9]
	Yes	*No*	
Do you think a person should be allowed to grow a small amount of cannabis for personal use only?	36.4 [33.1-39.9]	63.6 [60.1-66.9]	
If yes, should cannabis or marijuana be legally available?	79.6 [74.6-83.9]	20.4 [16.1-25.4]	

TABLE 43: Public Opinion of Albertans about Cannabis Policy, by Demographic Characteristics

	Should possession of small amounts of marijuana be illegal?		If yes, should there be a penalty for possession of small amounts of marijuana?	
	Yes % [95% CI]	No % [95% CI]	Yes % [95% CI]	No % [95% CI]
Total	52.6 [49.0-56.1]	47.4 [43.9-51.0]	90.0 [86.4-92.8]	10.0 [7.2-13.6]
Sex	*	*	NS	NS
Female	62.1 [57.4-66.6]	37.9 [33.4-42.6]	90.1 [85.6-93.3]	9.9[Q] [6.7-14.4]
Male	42.9 [37.7-48.3]	57.1 [51.7-62.3]	89.9 [82.8-94.2]	10.1[Q] [5.8-17.2]
Age Group	NS	NS	NS	NS
15-17	43.2[Q] [27.7-60.2]	56.8 [39.8-72.3]	84.5 [56.5-95.8]	S
18-29	42.3 [35.5-49.3]	57.7 [50.7-64.5]	88.0 [79.0-93.5]	12.0[Q] [6.5-21.0]
30-49	50.2 [44.8-55.6]	49.8 [44.4-55.2]	93.6 [88.7-96.4]	6.4[Q] [3.6-11.3]
50+	65.3 [58.6-71.5]	34.7 [28.5-41.4]	87.9 [80.2-92.9]	12.2[Q] [7.1-19.8]
Marital Status	NS	NS	*	*
Married or Widowed	64.2 [59.4-68.8]	35.8 [31.2-40.6]	91.4 [86.5-94.7]	8.6[Q] [5.3-13.5]
Common-Law	33.4[Q] [23.5-45.0]	66.6 [55.0-76.5]	90.9 [74.0-97.2]	S
Separated or Divorced	41.1 [29.7-53.6]	58.9 [46.4-70.3]	94.2 [79.4-98.6]	S
Single	39.5 [33.3-46.1]	60.5 [53.9-66.7]	85.0 [76.0-91.1]	15.0[Q] [8.9-24.0]
Education	*	*	NS	NS
Less than secondary	48.8 [38.9-58.9]	51.2 [41.1-61.1]	91.1 [80.4-96.2]	S
Secondary	59.0 [52.3-65.4]	41.0 [34.6-47.7]	91.3 [84.0-95.4]	8.7[Q] [4.6-16.0]
Some post-secondary	50.0 [44.0-56.1]	50.0 [43.9-56.0]	88.5 [81.1-93.2]	11.5[Q] [6.8-18.9]
University degree	49.5 [42.4-56.6]	50.5 [43.4-57.6]	90.6 [81.5-95.5]	S

TABLE 43 continued on the next page

TABLE 43: continued. Public Opinion of Albertans about Cannabis Policy, by Demographic Characteristics

	Should possession of small amounts of marijuana be illegal?		If yes, should there be a penalty for possession of small amounts of marijuana?	
	Yes % [95% CI]	No % [95% CI]	Yes % [95% CI]	No % [95% CI]
Income	*	*	NS	NS
Low	52.9 [39.8-65.6]	47.1 [34.4-60.2]	90.8 [73.6-97.2]	S
Middle	46.0 [40.2-51.8]	54.0 [48.2-59.8]	89.7 [82.7-94.1]	10.3[Q] [5.9-17.3]
High	52.7 [46.4-59.0]	47.3 [41.0-53.6]	90.1 [82.5-94.6]	9.9[Q] [5.4-17.5]
DK/Refused	62.1 [54.8-68.9]	37.9 [31.1-45.2]	90.1 [82.6-94.6]	9.9[Q] [5.4-17.4]
Location of Household	NS	NS	NS	NS
Rural	55.8 [44.3-66.8]	44.2 [33.2-55.7]	93.2 [81.2-97.7]	S
Urban	52.3 [48.5-56.0]	47.7 [44.0-51.5]	89.7 [85.7-92.6]	10.3[Q] [7.4-14.3]
Use of Alcohol in the Past Year	*	*	*	*
No	74.3 [66.8-80.6]	25.7 [19.4-33.2]	95.2 [90.1-97.7]	S
Yes	46.9 [42.9-50.9]	53.1 [49.1-57.1]	88.0 [83.1-91.5]	12.0[Q] [8.5-16.9]
Use of Any Drug in the Past Year	*	*	*	*
No	60.6 [56.7-64.3]	39.4 [35.7-43.3]	90.8 [87.2-93.5]	9.2[Q] [6.5-12.8]
One or more	9.8[Q] [5.7-16.5]	90.2 [83.5-94.3]	59.4[Q] [30.5-83.0]	S

* Significant (p<=0.05).
NS Not significantly different (p<=0.05).
[Q] Qualified release due to high sampling variability.
S Estimate suppressed due to unacceptable high sampling variability.

TABLE 43 continued. Public Opinion of Albertans about Cannabis Policy, by Demographic Characteristics

	Should the outcome of the sentence be a jail term or a non-jail term such as a fine or probation?			Do you think a person should be allowed to grow a small number of cannabis plants for personal use only?		If yes, should cannabis be legally available?	
	Jail % [95% CI]	Fine % [95% CI]	Both % [95% CI]	Yes % [95% CI]	No % [95% CI]	Yes % [95% CI]	No % [95% CI]
Total	18.5 [14.7-23.1]	71.2 [66.2-75.8]	10.3 [7.5-13.9]	36.4 [33.1-39.9]	63.6 [60.1-66.9]	79.6 [74.6-83.9]	20.4 [16.1-25.4]
Sex	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Female	16.5 [12.2-21.8]	75.3 [69.3-80.6]	8.2[Q] [5.1-12.8]	28.6 [24.6-33.0]	71.4 [67.0-75.4]	70.3 [61.7-77.7]	29.7 [22.3-38.3]
Male	21.5[Q] [15.0-29.9]	65.2 [56.6-72.9]	13.3[Q] [8.7-19.8]	44.4 [39.3-49.7]	55.6 [50.3-60.7]	85.9 [79.6-90.4]	14.1[Q] [9.6-20.4]
Age Group	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
15-17	S	63.8[Q] [35.3-85.0]	S	42.4[Q] [27.0-59.4]	57.6 [40.6-73.0]	83.3 [54.1-95.5]	S
18-29	17.5[Q] [10.2-28.4]	65.7 [54.0-75.8]	16.7[Q] [9.8-27.2]	45.2 [38.4-52.3]	54.8 [47.7-61.6]	76.0 [65.8-83.9]	24.0[Q] [16.1-34.2]
30-49	17.9[Q] [12.8-24.5]	75.7 [68.6-81.6]	6.4[Q] [3.6-11.3]	40.3 [35.1-45.7]	59.7 [54.3-64.9]	85.3 [78.3-90.3]	14.7[Q] [9.7-21.7]
50+	18.9[Q] [12.3-27.7]	69.6 [60.2-77.7]	11.5[Q] [6.7-18.9]	23.7 [18.5-29.8]	76.3 [70.2-81.5]	72.0 [59.1-82.1]	28.0[Q] [17.9-40.9]
Marital Status	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
Married or Widowed	18.6 [13.9-24.5]	70.3 [63.9-76.0]	11.0[Q] [7.5-15.9]	26.3 [22.2-30.7]	73.3 [69.3-77.8]	77.7 [69.0-84.6]	22.3[Q] [15.4-31.0]
Common-Law	S	67.2 [46.4-83.0]	S	53.4 [41.8-64.7]	46.6 [35.3-58.2]	87.8 [72.2-95.3]	S
Separated or Divorced	S	79.4 [60.0-90.8]	S	37.4 [26.7-49.5]	62.6 [50.5-73.3]	80.6 [63.1-91.0]	S
Single	19.0[Q] [11.6-29.5]	73.0 [61.9-81.8]	S	50.2 [43.6-56.8]	49.8 [43.2-56.4]	78.7 [70.2-85.2]	21.3[Q] [14.8-29.8]
Education	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	*	*
Less than secondary	31.8[Q] [18.5-48.9]	61.3 [44.8-75.5]	S	34.5 [25.7-44.6]	65.5 [55.4-74.3]	88.2 [73.5-95.2]	S
Secondary	21.6[Q] [14.5-30.8]	68.2 [58.6-76.4]	10.3[Q] [6.1-16.8]	32.2 [26.3-38.7]	67.8 [61.3-73.7]	69.8 [58.2-79.3]	30.2[Q] [20.7-41.8]
Some post-secondary	13.3[Q] [8.5-20.4]	73.9 [65.1-81.2]	12.7[Q] [7.5-20.9]	41.0 [35.1-47.1]	59.0 [52.9-64.9]	81.4 [73.1-87.5]	18.6[Q] [21.5-26.9]
University degree	13.1[Q] [7.5-21.7]	78.3 [68.6-85.6]	S	37.2 [30.6-44.4]	62.8 [55.6-69.4]	85.2 [75.3-91.5]	14.8[Q] [8.5-24.7]

TABLE 43 continued on the next page

TABLE 43 continued. Public Opinion of Albertans about Cannabis Policy, by Demographic Characteristics

	Should the outcome of the sentence be a jail term or a non-jail term such as a fine or probation?			Do you think a person should be allowed to grow a small number of cannabis plants for personal use only?		If yes, should cannabis be legally available?	
	Jail % [95% CI]	Fine % [95% CI]	Both % [95% CI]	Yes % [95% CI]	No % [95% CI]	Yes % [95% CI]	No % [95% CI]
Income	*	*	*	NS	NS	NS	NS
Low	28.8[Q] [14.3-49.5]	67.1 [46.7-82.6]	S	39.1[Q] [27.1-52.6]	60.9 [47.4-72.9]	79.0 [56.3-91.6]	S
Middle	22.2[Q] [15.2-31.3]	71.0 [61.8-78.8]	6.7[Q] [3.5-12.6]	39.7 [34.1-45.5]	60.3 [54.5-65.9]	82.9 [75.3-88.5]	17.1[Q] [11.5-24.7]
High	13.5[Q] [8.0-22.0]	75.3 [66.3-82.5]	11.2[Q] [6.7-18.0]	37.6 [31.6-43.9]	62.4 [56.1-68.4]	77.2 [67.5-84.7]	22.8[Q] [15.3-32.5]
DK/Refused	17.3[Q] [11.6-25.2]	68.2 [58.6-76.5]	14.4[Q] [8.6-23.2]	29.6 [23.6-36.5]	70.4 [63.5-76.4]	77.1 [63.9-86.5]	22.9[Q] [13.5-36.1]
Location of Household	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
Rural	29.3[Q] [17.6-44.6]	65.8 [50.5-78.4]	S	31.7[Q] [22.1-43.1]	68.3 [56.9-77.9]	79.2 [60.0-90.6]	S
Urban	17.4 [13.4-22.2]	71.8 [66.5-76.6]	10.8 [7.8-14.8]	36.9 [33.4-40.6]	63.1 [59.4-66.6]	79.6 [74.3-84.1]	20.4 [15.9-25.7]
Use of Alcohol in the Past Year	NS	NS	NS	*	*	NS	NS
No	30.1 [21.7-40.1]	60.0 [49.9-69.3]	S	18.6 [13.4-25.2]	81.4 [74.8-86.6]	70.6 [54.1-83.0]	29.4[Q] [17.0-45.9]
Yes	13.8 [10.0-18.7]	75.8 [70.2-80.7]	10.4[Q] [7.3-14.5]	41.0 [37.1-45.0]	59.0 [55.0-62.9]	80.7 [75.3-85.1]	19.3 [14.9-24.7]
Use on Any Drugs in the Past Year	NS	NS	NS	*	*	NS	NS
No	18.6 [14.7-23.1]	71.2 [66.1-75.8]	10.2 [7.4-13.9]	28.7 [25.4-32.4]	71.3 [67.6-74.6]	75.8 [69.3-81.4]	24.2 [18.6-30.7]
One or more	S	72.7[Q] [35.3-92.8]	S	78.9 [70.6-85.4]	21.1[Q] [14.6-29.4]	87.5 [79.3-92.8]	12.5[Q] [7.2-20.7]

* Significant (p<=0.05).

NS Not significantly different (p<=0.05).

[Q] Qualified release due to high sampling variability.

S Estimate suppressed due to unacceptable high sampling variability.

TABLE 44: Public Opinion of Albertans about the Legal Status of Cannabis

	Yes % [95% CI]	No % [95% CI]		
Have you heard about the change in legislation of making less than 15 grams of marijuana a fine, rather than a criminal activity?	74.6 [71.5-77.5]	25.4 [22.5-28.5]		
	Strongly support	*Somewhat support*	*Somewhat oppose*	*Strongly oppose*
Do you support the change in legislation?	26.7 [23.7-30.0]	31.7 [28.4-35.2]	11.8 [9.7-14.4]	29.8 [26.6-33.1]

Q Qualified release due to high sampling variability.
S Estimate suppressed due to unacceptable high sampling variability.

TABLE 45: Public Opinion of Albertans about the Legal Status of Cannabis, by Demographic Characteristics

	Have you heard about the change in legislation of making <15g of marijuana a fine, rather than a criminal penalty?		Do you support the change in legislation?	
	Yes % [95% CI]	No % [95% CI]	Support % [95% CI]	Oppose % [95% CI]
Total	74.6 [71.5-77.5]	25.4 [22.5-28.5]	58.4 [54.8-61.9]	41.6 [38.1-45.2]
Sex	*	*	*	*
Female	68.0 [63.5-72.2]	32.0 [27.8-36.5]	52.3 [47.4-57.1]	47.7 [42.9-52.6]
Male	81.4 [76.9-85.2]	18.6 [14.8-23.1]	64.7 [59.4-69.6]	35.3 [30.4-40.6]
Age Group	NS	NS	NS	NS
15-17	53.5 [36.8-69.5]	46.5[Q] [30.5-63.2]	71.6 [53.7-84.5]	28.4[Q] [15.5-46.3]
18-29	70.8 [64.0-76.7]	29.2 [23.3-36.0]	64.6 [57.6-71.0]	35.4 [29.0-42.4]
30-49	79.4 [74.9-83.2]	20.6 [16.8-25.1]	60.5 [55.1-65.6]	39.5 [34.4-44.9]
50+	74.3 [68.0-79.7]	25.7 [20.3-32.0]	48.6 [41.7-55.6]	51.4 [44.4-58.3]
Marital Status	NS	NS	*	*
Married or Widowed	73.7 [69.2-77.8]	26.3 [22.2-30.8]	48.4 [43.5-53.4]	51.6 [46.6-56.5]
Common-Law	77.9 [67.3-85.8]	22.1[Q] [14.2-32.7]	75.2 [64.0-83.8]	28.4[Q] [16.2-36.0]
Separated or Divorced	77.9 [67.4-85.8]	22.1[Q] [14.2-32.6]	65.7 [53.5-76.1]	34.3[Q] [23.9-46.5]
Single	75.0 [68.9-80.3]	25.0 [19.7-31.1]	69.6 [63.3-75.3]	30.4 [24.7-36.7]
Education	*	*	NS	NS
Less than secondary	54.3 [44.0-64.1]	45.7 [35.9-56.0]	56.5 [46.0-66.3]	43.5 [33.7-54.0]
Secondary	72.6 [66.3-78.0]	27.4 [22.0-33.7]	57.4 [50.4-64.1]	42.6 [35.9-49.6]
Some post-secondary	79.8 [74.6-84.1]	20.2 [15.9-25.4]	58.2 [52.1-64.1]	41.8 [35.9-47.9]
University degree	81.8 [75.9-86.4]	18.2 [13.6-24.1]	60.7 [53.7-67.3]	39.3 [32.7-46.3]

TABLE 45 continued on the next page

TABLE 45: continued. Public Opinion of Albertans about the Legal Status of Cannabis, by Demographic Characteristics

	Have you heard about the change in legislation of making <15g of marijuana a fine, rather than a criminal penalty?		Do you support the change in legislation?	
	Yes % [95% CI]	No % [95% CI]	Support % [95% CI]	Oppose % [95% CI]
Income	NS	NS	NS	NS
Low	65.7 [52.6-76.8]	34.3[Q] [23.2-47.4]	62.0 [48.6-73.8]	38.0[Q] [26.2-51.4]
Middle	72.4 [67.1-77.2]	27.6 [22.8-32.9]	55.0 [49.1-60.8]	45.0 [39.2-50.9]
High	83.1 [77.8-87.4]	16.9 [12.6-22.2]	61.6 [55.4-67.4]	38.4 [32.6-44.6]
DK/Refused	70.0 [63.1-76.1]	30.0 [23.9-36.9]	58.5 [50.9-65.8]	41.5 [34.2-49.1]
Location of Household	NS	NS	NS	NS
Rural	66.9 [55.2-76.7]	33.1[Q] [23.3-44.8]	48.3 [37.1-59.7]	51.7 [40.3-62.9]
Urban	75.4 [72.1-78.4]	24.6 [21.6-27.9]	59.4 [55.6-63.1]	40.6 [36.9-44.4]
Use of Alcohol in the Past Year	NS	NS	*	*
No	65.6 [57.7-72.7]	34.4 [27.3-42.3]	39.4 [31.8-47.5]	60.6 [52.5-68.2]
Yes	77.0 [73.5-80.1]	23.0 [19.9-26.5]	63.0 [59.0-66.8]	37.0 [33.2-41.0]
Use of Any Drug in the Past Year	*	*	*	*
No	72.5 [69.0-75.8]	27.5 [24.2-31.0]	52.7 [48.8-56.6]	47.3 [43.4-51.2]
One or more	86.3 [78.9-91.4]	13.7[Q] [8.6-21.1]	88.8 [81.7-93.4]	11.2[Q] [6.6-18.3]

* Significant (p<=0.05).
NS Not significantly different (p<=0.05).
[Q] Qualified release due to high sampling variability.
S Estimate suppressed due to unacceptable high sampling variability.

TABLE 46: Public Opinion on "How difficult or easy would it be for you to get. . . , if you wanted some?"

	Probably Impossible % [95% CI]	Very Difficult % [95% CI]	Fairly Difficult % [95% CI]	Fairly Easy % [95% CI]	Very Easy % [95% CI]
Cannabis	3.7 [2.6-5.3]	6.2 [4.7-8.2]	7.6 [5.9-9.7]	29.0 [25.8-32.4]	53.5 [49.9-57.0]
Hallucinogens	10.6 [8.5-13.2]	14.8 [12.5-17.5]	22.5 [19.6-25.8]	30.5 [27.2-34.0]	21.5 [18.6-24.7]
Ecstasy	9.1 [7.2-11.5]	13.2 [11.0-15.8]	17.9 [15.2-21.0]	35.5 [32.1-39.0]	24.3 [21.3-27.6]
Cocaine/Crack	9.3 [7.3-11.8]	15.4 [13.0-18.2]	21.1 [18.3-24.3]	30.2 [27.0-33.6]	23.9 [21.0-27.1]
Speed	9.5 [7.5-12.0]	15.1 [12.7-17.9]	21.2 [18.3-24.5]	30.8 [27.4-34.3]	23.4 [20.4-26.6]
Heroin	12.5 [10.2-15.2]	23.2 [20.3-26.5]	25.8 [22.8-29.2]	24.3 [21.3-27.5]	14.1 [11.8-16.9]

TABLE 47: Demographic Relationship to Reporting Cannabis and Cocaine are Fairly or Very Easy to Access

	Cannabis		Cocaine	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
Total	82.5	[79.6-85.0]	54.1	[50.5-57.7]
Sex	NS		NS	
Female	81.8	[77.8-85.2]	57.6	[52.8-62.3]
Male	83.1	[78.9-86.6]	50.8	[45.5-56.1]
Age Group	NS		NS	
15-17	89.6	[76.3-95.9]	50.3	[35.4-65.2]
18-29	90.2	[85.1-93.7]	51.8	[44.6-58.9]
30-49	81.0	[76.4-85.0]	57.1	[51.5-62.6]
50+	77.4	[71.4-82.5]	52.6	[45.7-59.3]
Marital Status	NS		NS	
Married or Widowed	75.9	[71.4-79.9]	50.3	[45.2-55.5]
Common-Law	92.7	[83.9-96.9]	65.8	[52.1-77.3]
Separated or Divorced	90.4	[81.7-95.2]	60.7	[49.6-70.9]
Single	88.5	[83.8-91.9]	55.2	[48.8-61.4]
Education	NS		NS	
Less than High School	82.8	[74.4-88.9]	57.0	[47.5-66.1]
Completed High School	78.9	[72.4-84.2]	57.2	[50.1-63.9]
Some Post-secondary	86.3	[81.8-89.9]	55.8	[49.5-61.9]
Completed Post-secondary	82.4	[76.6-87.0]	47.8	[40.7-55.0]
Income	NS		NS	
Low	85.0	[75.6-91.3]	62.5	[51.3-72.5]
Middle	80.3	[74.9-84.8]	50.7	[44.4-56.9]
High	86.0	[81.4-89.6]	53.8	[47.7-59.9]
DK/Refused	78.6	[71.6-84.3]	55.8	[47.9-63.5]
Location of Household	*		*	
Rural	89.4	[81.8-94.0]	74.2	[64.0-82.3]
Urban	81.8	[78.7-84.5]	52.0	[48.2-55.8]
Past-Year Use	*		*	
Non-User	79.2	[75.9-82.2]	53.5	[49.8-57.1]
User	98.0	[92.8-99.5]	86.1	[58.9-96.4]

* Significant (p<=0.05).
NS Not significantly different (p<=0.05).
Q Qualified release due to high sampling variability.

Summary

Alcohol use and problems

While the vast majority of Albertans drink alcoholic beverages, most do so in quantities and frequencies that are not harmful. That said, about one in 10 drinkers consume five drinks or more at least weekly, one in five drinkers score in the high-risk range of the AUDIT scale suggesting harmful drinking or potential dependence, and almost one-third of drinkers will experience harm in at least one alcohol-related area during the lifetime (most likely in the areas of physical health and/or friendships and social life).

Demographic characteristics can be used to make predictions about alcohol use behaviour and harm. For example, males are more likely to use alcohol and to use it at harmful levels. Additionally, the use of alcohol and the experience of related harm is generally lower for older Albertans, those who are married or widowed and those who have a complete post-secondary education.

Illicit drug use and problems

Almost half of Albertans have tried cannabis at least once in their lifetime and three in 20 Albertans have used it during the past year. Almost half of cannabis users use the drug weekly or more with about one in five using the drug daily or almost daily. The vast majority, about 80%, score in the moderate to high-risk range of the ASSIST scale, suggesting the need for intervention. About one in five Albertans used an illicit drug other than cannabis over the course of a lifetime, but only 3.5% have used such a drug in the past year. Most (87%) of past-year users use the drug on a monthly basis or less and the majority (63%) score in the moderate to high-risk range of the ASSIST scale, suggesting the need for intervention. About one-quarter of illicit drug users will experience at least one occasion of drug-related harm during the course of the lifetime and, as with alcohol, most likely in the areas of physical health and/or friendships and social life.

Demographic characteristics can be used to make predictions about illicit drug use behaviour and harm. For example, males are more likely to use illicit drugs, as are those who do not have a complete post-secondary education and those who live common-law or are separated. Conversely, the likelihood of having used illicit drugs is lower for older Albertans, as is the likelihood of having experienced harm from illicit drug use.

Public opinion about alcohol and illicit drug abuse

Albertans generally view alcohol abuse and illicit drug abuse as serious issues whether considering it in Canada, in Alberta or in their own community. Interestingly, they tended to rate substance abuse as least serious in their own

communities. Overall, there is strong public support for existing alcohol control policies and initiatives as well as current drug policy programs and government actions to reduce illicit drug use and consequences of abuse. The results suggest that Albertans would like a strong response to what they view as serious issues and want a range of responses including prevention and treatment as well as legal action. Albertans tend to support the status quo on cannabis laws, as reflected in their division of opinion on questions related to cannabis. As well, although there is support for harm reduction in general, there is some disagreement on specific harm reduction efforts.

More specifically on alcohol policy, most Albertans think the provincial government was right in closing all government-run liquor stores and allowing privately run stores to sell alcohol. The majority thinks current tax levels should remain the same, favours random police spot-checks to catch drinking drivers, and supports efforts to prevent drunken customers from being served. However, Albertans are split on their views about raising the legal drinking age and prohibiting TV alcohol advertising.

Differences were noted related to sex and drinking status. Females are more likely to think taxes on alcoholic beverages should be increased, and to support an increase in the legal drinking age and the prohibition of alcohol advertising on television. Those who drank in the past 12 months are more likely to think taxes on alcohol, the legal drinking age and efforts to prevent drunken customers from being served should remain the same.

Overall, there is strong support for the drug policy programs and government actions to reduce illicit drug use and consequences of abuse. The majority supports needle exchange programs, methadone maintenance programs, drug treatment courts, and harm reduction strategies in general. Knowledge of these options varies, with needle exchange and methadone maintenance programs being the most known and harm reduction strategies and drug treatment courts being least known. In general, support for these drug policy options increases with age and education.

Albertans are in favour of drug treatment and harm reduction efforts as well as legal action to respond to drug issues. For example, the vast majority agrees with drug treatment programs and with the government pursuing legal action against illicit drug sellers and, to a lesser extent, legal action against drug users. There is public support in general for health programs to reduce harm without requiring alcohol and illicit drug use to stop; yet there is equally strong opposition to night shelters for the homeless without requiring alcohol and illicit drug use to stop, which suggests some opposition to harm reduction.

Albertans are split on whether possession of a small amount of cannabis should be illegal. About half of Albertans think possession of a small amount should be illegal and that there should be a penalty. However, most of these Albertans think the penalty should be a fine. The majority of Albertans does not support the growing of a small number of cannabis plants for personal use. Albertans

are split in their views about the proposed legislation being considered by the federal government to change the penalty for possession of 15 grams or less of cannabis from a criminal sanction to a fine only. Just over half of Albertans are in favour. Support for a more liberal cannabis policy is strongest among males and those who have used alcohol or any illicit drugs in the past year.

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